Template for submissions on:

Background paper and brief for the redevelopment of Junior Cycle SPHE

NCCA consultation

September 2021

The NCCA is updating junior cycle Social, Personal and Health Education. The *Background paper and brief for the redevelopment of junior cycle SPHE* sets out the background and context for redeveloping junior cycle SPHE and proposes a brief for guiding the work in creating a new course.

We would really value feedback by using the template on page 4 and sending it to [SPHEdevelopments@ncca.ie](mailto:SPHEdevelopments@ncca.ie) The consultation will remain open until Tuesday, November 5th 2021

You can read the *Background paper and brief for the redevelopment of Junior Cycle* *SPHE* at <https://ncca.ie/en/updates-and-events/consultations/.>

Extracts from this are provided on the following page.

**Date Protection Statement**

The NCCA is committed to protecting your privacy and does not collect any personal information about you through this survey, other than information that you provide by your own consent. Any personal information you volunteer to the NCCA will be respected in accordance with the highest standards of security and confidentiality in accordance with GDPR (2016) and the Data Protection Acts (1998 - 2018). NCCA, as a public body operating under the Open Data and Public Service Information Directive (2021), is required to publish publicly funded research. Further information on the NCCA’s Data Protection Policy can be found [here](https://ncca.ie/en/resources/ncca-data-protection-policy/).

Any data from this will be further anonymized and aggregated and only made available after the final report is completed. This is expected to be in January 2022. Where a respondent selects ‘yes’ to the question *Are you willing to be listed as a contributor to the consultation*, respondents are consenting to having their name / organisation’s name published with the list of written submission on [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

**Please complete the following:**

**Name:**

**Email address:**

**Are you contributing views as**

a. An individual Yes/No

b. An organization Yes/No Name of organisation:

**Are you willing to be listed as a contributor to the consultation?** YES/NO

***Brief for the review and redevelopment of Junior Cycle SPHE*** (an extract of full paper, pp 34-36)

The specification will be at a common level. It will be designed to be taught and assessed in a minimum of 100 hours and structured around strands and learning outcomes.

The development of the new specification will

* Take account of research and international good practice in the field of SPHE/RSE as well as the experiences of teachers and students in Ireland who have shared their suggestions and insights through recent reviews and consultation processes
* Be conscious of how the specification relates to and supports learning within the wider junior cycle Wellbeing programme while avoiding any unhelpful overlap of learning
* Embed the key skills of junior cycle in the learning outcomes of the specification and make explicit how SPHE links to the six indicators of wellbeing
* Address continuity and progression: aware that a redeveloped SPHE short course is a first step in creating an integrated updated SPHE curriculum that provides progression of learning from early childhood to upper secondary education
* Be grounded in an approach to SPHE/RSE that is holistic, student-centred, inclusive, age and developmentally appropriate and whole school (as set out in the NCCA’s 2019 *Report on the Review of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in primary and post-primary schools)*
* Present RSE as part of an integrated SPHE curriculum
* Include specific mention of topics identified by this report and the NCCA’s Report on the Review of RSE as important for young people’s learning today[[1]](#footnote-2).

More specifically, the development of the new specification will consider the following questions.

* What is the aim and rationale for the SPHE short course in the current context?
* How should the course be organised and will it continue to be structured around its existing four strands, associated topics and learning outcomes?
* What adjustments might be needed in relation to the Classroom-Based Assessment for SPHE?
* How can the specification empower students and teachers to adopt a collaborative, dialogical, and reflective approach to teaching and learning in SPHE?
* How can the specification be flexible and sensitive to accommodate a range of school contexts and student needs while providing clarity on what is the important knowledge, skills, attitudes and dispositions that students should gain during the three years of SPHE within junior cycle?

**Questions to consider:**

**1. Having read the above, what stands out for you as *the most important consideration* in**

**updating the junior cycle SPHE curriculum?**

**2. Are there further suggestions or considerations that you would like the Development Group**

**to consider when updating junior cycle SPHE?**

Thank you for taking the time to share your views with us.

Please email this document to [SPHEdevelopments@ncca.ie](mailto:???@ncca.ie) by November 5th 2021.

The report on this consultation will be available on [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie) early 2022.

1. Topics suggested in the Report include consent, healthy, positive sexual expression, the effects of the internet and social media on relationships and self-esteem, pornography, gender and sexual discrimination and violence, social and cultural norms and expectations as they relate to relationships and sexuality and LGBTQ+ matters. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)