

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-551
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/01611/14

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24 July 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 23 July informing me of Mr Clarke's petition on the subject of making basic first aid skills compulsory in Welsh secondary schools.

Clearly, basic first aid skills are important and the Welsh Government recognises the contribution that schools can make to help our children and young people learn these skills. Schools can and do teach basic first aid, in the form of emergency life saving skills, through personal and social education (PSE) which is a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

The PSE framework for 7 to 19 year olds in Wales sets out the aim to provide the foundation for a broad, balanced holistic approach to PSE which features a range of experiences to promote the personal and social development and well-being of learners. This framework is the key document that schools should use in planning their personal and social education programme. A copy of this framework can be accessed from the link shown below:

<http://learning.wales.gov.uk/resources/personal-and-social-education/?skip=1&lang=en>

The five key themes identified in the PSE framework are: Active Citizenship; Health and Emotional Well-being; Moral and Spiritual Development; Preparing for Lifelong Learning; and Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

Through the Health and Emotional Well-being theme, learners can be helped to maintain their emotional and physical health, sustain their growth and development, and know how to keep themselves safe. Learners should be given opportunities to develop the practical skills necessary for everyday life, including emergency aid procedures and how to administer basic first aid.

In addition, the Welsh Government's PSE guidance website has links to a range of voluntary organisations including the British Heart Foundation (BHF) who support schools on teaching of basic first aid. A link to the website is shown below:

<http://wales.gov.uk/psesub/home/themes/healthandemotionalwellbeing/supportingorganisations/?lang=en>

The delivery of the curriculum is delegated to schools and decisions on the precise content, materials and resources of a school's PSE programme lie with head teachers and their governing bodies to ensure that this meets the needs of the children and local community.

I hope that this information will reassure Mr Clarke that the Welsh Government is committed to working with secondary schools to support teaching of first aid and emergency life support skills to children and young people.



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