

The future of PSHE

"What could be more important than this?"

2020 will see the implementation of statutory RSE and Health Education in secondary schools across the country, marking the culmination of many years of campaigning, wishing and hoping by those in the PSHE field. Exciting times!

This year also marks my 20th anniversary as a PSHE/RSE specialist. Over the years I have experienced all aspects of PSHE/RSE, from supporting schools to develop policy and curriculum, creating resources and helping staff to develop skills and confidence to be delivering directly to pupils (often the best part!).

To say PSHE is a passion for me is an understatement - and over the years I've had the pleasure of working with many other passionate and committed PSHE leads who have made a real difference to the holistic education of young people. Being approached to act as a series editor of **Explore PSHE** was a particular career highlight for me and I've enjoyed working closely with the PSHE specialist authors, Pauline Stirling and Phil Ashton, to guide the development of the resources.

Although there have been some changes to PSHE over the years, the fundamental elements of effective practice are the same and reflected in the new government guidance. These can be summarised as: giving PSHE priority within the school as part of a whole school approach; a curriculum that meets the needs of pupils; monitoring, evaluation and assessment; creating a safe space for PSHE to take place; and,



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engaging lessons taught by trained, confident educators.

The Explore PSHE series is an excellent resource that will support teachers with delivering the content of the new guidance and the good practice mentioned above. The learning outcomes contained in the guidance are mapped across the comprehensive set of lesson plans for **KS3** and **KS4**, making it easy for teachers to plan their curriculum content. **KS5** uses an activity-based approach to continue the topics and themes of KS3 and KS4, even where lesson time is pushed. And all lessons contain interactive, thought-provoking content to stimulate discussion and deep thinking amongst students, which could be equally well used in timetabled PSHE sessions, in tutor time or small group work.

As its heart, PSHE is about giving young people the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe, form positive relationships, and lead healthy productive lives. What could be more important than this?