Consultation Response Form

Consultation closing date: 16 April 2013
Your comments must reach us by that date.

Reform of the National Curriculum in England

Consultation Response Form
THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online response facility available on the Department for Education e-consultation website (http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations).

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you want all, or any part, of your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential. [ ]

Reason for confidentiality:

Name Simon Ross

Organisation (if applicable) Population Matters

Address: 135-137 Station Road, London E4 6AG
If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Public Communications Unit by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's 'Contact Us' page.

Please tick one category that best describes you as a respondent

- [ ] Primary School
- [ ] Secondary School
- [ ] Special School
- [ ] Organisation representing school teachers
- [ ] Subject Association
- [ ] Parent
- [ ] Young Person
- [ ] Higher Education
- [ ] Further Education
- [ ] Academy
- [ ] Employer/Business Sector
- [ ] Local Authority
- [ ] Teacher
- [ ] Other

Please Specify: Other: Charity

Are you answering this consultation in response to particular subjects? Please tick all those that apply.

- [ ] English
- [ ] mathematics
- [ ] science
- [ ] art & design
- [ ] citizenship
- [ ] computing
- [ ] design & technology
- [ ] geography
- [ ] history
- [ ] languages
- [ ] music
- [ ] physical education
- [ ] Not applicable
1 Do you have any comments on the proposed aims for the National Curriculum as a whole as set out in the framework document?

**Comments:** We are concerned that the proposals do not support the further development of PHSE or sex and relationship education.

Surveys by the Sex education Forum, Brook and others have shown that current provision of PHSE varies in the quality of its delivery and is generally inadequate to achieve generally responsible and prudent sexual behaviour.

The UK has a relatively high rate of unplanned pregnancies. These affect adversely the educational prospects and attainment of the girls concerned and the life chances of both them and their children.

More generally, England is the most crowded country in Europe and has a relatively high birth rate and high rate of larger families. This affects access to housing, transport, and employment and the sustainability of energy, water and climate.

We would like stronger and more detailed emphasis in the curriculum on prudent sexual behaviour.

We would also like the aims to include an understanding of the principles of environmental sustainability.

2 Do you agree that instead of detailed subject-level aims we should free teachers to shape their own curriculum aims based on the content in the programmes of study?

[ ] Agree  [ ] Disagree  [ ] Not sure
3 Do you have any comments on the content set out in the draft programmes of study?

Comments: Yes; the content needs strengthening in line with the submission of the Sex Education Forum.

We would like the content to include an understanding of the principles of environmental sustainability, encompassing resource depletion, environmental degradation, climate change, inequality, poverty alleviation and population dynamics.

4 Does the content set out in the draft programmes of study represent a sufficiently ambitious level of challenge for pupils at each key stage?

☐ Sufficiently ambitious  ☐ Not sufficiently ambitious  ☐ Not sure
5 Do you have any comments on the proposed wording of the attainment targets?

Comments:

6 Do you agree that the draft programmes of study provide for effective progression between the key stages?

☐ Agree  ☐ Disagree  ☐ Not sure
7 Do you agree that we should change the subject information and communication technology to computing, to reflect the content of the new programmes of study?

☐ Agree  ☐ Disagree  ☐ Not sure

Comments:

8 Does the new National Curriculum embody an expectation of higher standards for all children?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
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Comments:

9 What impact - either positive or negative - will our proposals have on the 'protected characteristic' groups?

Comments: It is important that education sufficiently covers the existence and acceptability of sexual orientation.

10 To what extent will the new National Curriculum make clear to parents what their children should be learning at each stage of their education?
11 What key factors will affect schools’ ability to implement the new National Curriculum successfully from September 2014?

Comments:

12 Who is best placed to support schools and/or develop resources that schools will need to teach the new National Curriculum?
In terms of sexual health, schools should engage with public health authorities, both in terms of sourcing information for lessons and in signposting pupils to public health services.

13 Do you agree that we should amend the legislation to disapply the National Curriculum programmes of study, attainment targets and statutory assessment arrangements, as set out in section 12 of the consultation document?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
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Comments:
14 Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the proposals in this consultation?

Comments:

15 Please let us have your views on responding to this consultation (e.g. the number and type of questions, whether it was easy to find, understand, complete etc.)

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply □
E-mail address for acknowledgement: ________________________________

Here at the Department for Education we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

☐ Yes ☐ No

All DfE public consultations are required to meet the Cabinet Office Principles on Consultation.

The key Consultation Principles are:

- departments will follow a range of timescales rather than defaulting to a 12-week period, particularly where extensive engagement has occurred before
- departments will need to give more thought to how they engage with and consult with those who are affected
- consultation should be 'digital by default', but other forms should be used where these are needed to reach the groups affected by a policy; and
- the principles of the Compact between government and the voluntary and community sector will continue to be respected.

Responses should be completed on-line or emailed to the relevant consultation email box. However, if you have any comments on how DfE consultations are conducted, please contact Carole Edge, DfE Consultation Coordinator, tel: 0370 000 2288 / email: carole.edge@education.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.
Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 16 April 2013

Send by post to:

Consultation Unit,
Area 1c,
Castle View House,
East Lane,
Runcorn,
Cheshire,
WA7 2GJ.

Send by e-mail to: NationalCurriculum CONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk