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Ols V August 2019

Thank you for your question at the recent parliamentary question on 16 July 2019, about Relationships Education lessons in schools. I am hugely encouraged by the consensus across the House of the positive forward step these subjects represent, and the careful balance struck by the guidance.

In regard to your question over the inclusion of First Aid and financial literacy in the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education curriculum, First Aid will be taught through Health Education.

The statutory guidance states that at primary, pupils should be taught the concepts of basic first aid, as well as how to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services. By the end of secondary school, pupils should know basic treatment for common injuries, life-saving skills including CPR, and the purpose of defibrillators. I agree that this is important teaching for children and young people to be safe and prepared for adult life.

Pupils receive financial education through the maths and citizenship curricula, as well as being free to cover this through Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE). Both maths and citizenship are in the National Curriculum (citizenship at secondary level).

The mathematics curriculum provides a strong emphasis on the essential arithmetic knowledge. This supports an understanding of numeracy and numbers to underpin pupils' ability to manage budgets and money, including for example, percentages. It also provides young people with the knowledge and financial skills to make important decisions about mortgages, loan repayments and the importance of personal budgeting.

In Citizenship, pupils are taught the functions and uses of money, the importance of personal budgeting, money management and the need to understand financial risk. This includes: income and expenditure; credit and debt; insurance, savings and pensions; financial products and services; and understanding how public money is raised and spent.

I will ensure to keep interested members of the House updated with further detail of the support package that will be offered to schools to deliver the Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum. I will place a copy of this letter in the House of Lords library.

THEODORE AGNEW