

Note from NCCA re links and materials available to support the implementation of the new JC SPHE curriculum.

Dear school leader,

As you'll be aware, the [updated JC SPHE specification](#) will be implemented in schools this September. The NCCA have created a helpful short presentation that sets out the context for the changes and key features of the new curriculum. This aims to support school leaders when communicating with staff or parents.

The files can be accessed at [SPHE toolkit \(curriculumonline.ie\)](#) by clicking on **School presentations resources**

1. JC SPHE presentation_slides with recording of script (13 mins)
2. JC SPHE presentation_slides only
3. JC SPHE presentation_script for slides

A leagan Gaeilge of the presentation and script is available also.

You might also like to remind your SPHE teachers that the SPHE JC toolkit provides a one-stop source for extensive guidance and classroom resources on all aspects of the updated JC SPHE curriculum. The JC Toolkit can be accessed here [SPHE toolkit \(curriculumonline.ie\)](#)

In regard to questions or concerns that have arisen about the teaching of specific topics such as pornography, sexual orientation and gender identity, the NCCA has provided helpful clarification on the intended learning - available at [this link](#) and entitled 'Additional guidance for teachers on specific learning outcomes'.

A specific information leaflet for parents is available [here](#)

Further information about the updated junior cycle SPHE curriculum can be found [here](#). Queries regarding CPD for SPHE can be directed to info@oide.ie

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Further to a recent communication to school leaders and Boards of Management from a number of groups regarding the updated Junior Cycle SPHE curriculum, you might find the following text helpful in framing a response.

Aware of the important life-skills and learning that SPHE provides as part of a holistic education for young people, this school supports the implementation of the updated Junior Cycle Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. **Xx Community/Comprehensive School** is satisfied that the redevelopment of the SPHE curriculum has been informed by extensive research, by work with schools and the education partners, and has been the focus of far-reaching public consultation, including an extensive consultation on the draft curriculum. For further detail please see the [Report on the consultation on the draft SPHE junior cycle curriculum](#)

Deliberations by the members of NCCA Council, its Boards and SPHE Development Groups provided a further important source of expertise and advice. In carrying out their deliberations, the members of these representative structures have drawn on both national and international research, consultation findings and relevant government policy commitments.

Furthermore, in developing the curriculum, significant attention has been paid to ensuring that learning is age-appropriate. Decisions about what to include in the curriculum are evidence-based and informed by international best practice, as well as consultations with parents/guardians, teachers and children/young people themselves.

In regard to questions or concerns that have arisen about the teaching of specific topics such as pornography, sexual orientation and gender identity, the NCCA has provided helpful clarification on the intended learning - available at this link and entitled '*Additional guidance for teachers on specific learning outcomes*'. [Resources for teaching and learning in SPHE \(curriculumonline.ie\)](https://www.curriculumonline.ie/SPHE/SPHE-Resources-for-teaching-and-learning)

To view the junior cycle updated curriculum please go to [SPHE \(curriculumonline.ie\)](https://www.curriculumonline.ie/SPHE)