

**Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for Schools
Ministerial & Public Communications Division
Department for Education
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester M1 2WD**

8th February 2018

Dear Minister of State,

I am writing concerning the Call for Evidence, 'Changes to the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE)' on behalf of the Youth Financial Capability Group (YFCG).

We represent six UK organisations¹ committed and working for effective financial education for all young people. The YFCG works directly with young people in primary and secondary schools, with young adults entering independent living and with teachers, youth workers and the organisations that serve them. Collectively, we design and deliver workshops; create and quality mark resources; train teachers and youth workers; set study plans and examinations; conduct research seeking evidence of impact; and collaborate to achieve the best possible outcomes for young people. We care that we make a difference and are signatories to the Money Advice Service's (MAS) Impact Principles².

The Minister of State has an opportunity to accelerate the provision of effective financial education for all young people by choosing to legislate statutory PSHE for all primary and secondary schools. Such a move would consolidate the current prevailing, piecemeal situation of money lessons in schools. The evidence is, habits are being formed around the age of seven³ and children begin to use money from that age. Early intervention in primary schools to build positive spending and savings habits could set up a child for life. Good habits can then be reinforced and built upon regularly through secondary school, consistent with a child's growing exposure to and use of money. Thus, building financial capability.

Statutory PSHE will ensure space is made available in the school day. It will also improve coherence, bringing the same approach to all secondary schools - LEA maintained, academies, free and independent. Presently, LEA maintained secondary schools must provide financial education up to GCSE age within mathematics and citizenship, a subject that less than 5% of students take as a GCSE. Evidence suggests this approach is not working⁴. Independent schools must provide financial education within PSHE. Academies and free schools have been excluded.

¹ MyBnk, The London Institute of Banking & Finance, Young Money, The Money Charity, National Skills Academy, Stewart Ivory Financial

² IMPACT principles - Financial Capability Strategy for the UK – MAS 2016

³ Habit Formation and Learning in Young Children – MAS 2013

⁴ Financial Education in Schools: Two Years On - Job Done? - All Party Parliamentary Group on Financial Education for Young People 2016

Our experience is that PSHE teachers already, generally have sole responsibility for financial education in schools. Formalising this and clearly allocating time will provide a stronger platform for success and a simpler structure for Ofsted and others to assess.

The YFCG is conversely concerned that an option being considered is to narrow the scope of PSHE, potentially excluding financial education.

Dealing with money is not a choice and it is our view that education to make better choices will impact pupils' futures. We support the PSHE Association that PSHE is a 'curriculum for life ... (and) helps children and young people to protect themselves online and offline, improves their physical and emotional health, and develops character, resilience, academic attainment and employment prospects, with the greatest benefits experienced by the most disadvantaged pupils,' and that it should be taught 'regularly, as a whole subject ...'.

PSHE teachers will need support to be effective. This will include training, access to coherent and relevant high-quality content, and funding to access outside specialist help when and if required.

We encourage the Minister of State to take this opportunity to legislate PSHE in its entirety on to the primary and secondary curricula in England.

Yours sincerely



Guy Rigden, CEO, MyBnk

On behalf of members of the YFCG:

Alison Pask, Managing Director, Financial Capability, The London Institute of Banking & Finance.

Michelle Highman, Chief Executive, The Money Charity.

Russell Winnard, Head of Educator Facing Programme and Services, Young Money.

Peter Pledger, Chief Executive Officer, National Skills Academy for Financial Services.

Paul Heward, Project Manager, Stewart Ivory Financial.