### Junior Cycle Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)

An Introduction to the Specification for the NCCA Short Course in SPHE (2023)

**Facilitator:** 

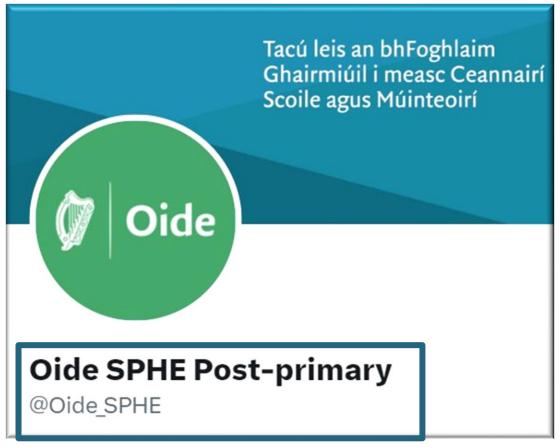


# **Short Course** Social, Personal & **Health Education** (SPHE) Specification for Junior Cycle



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#### **Padlet Wall**

#### Resources & Supports

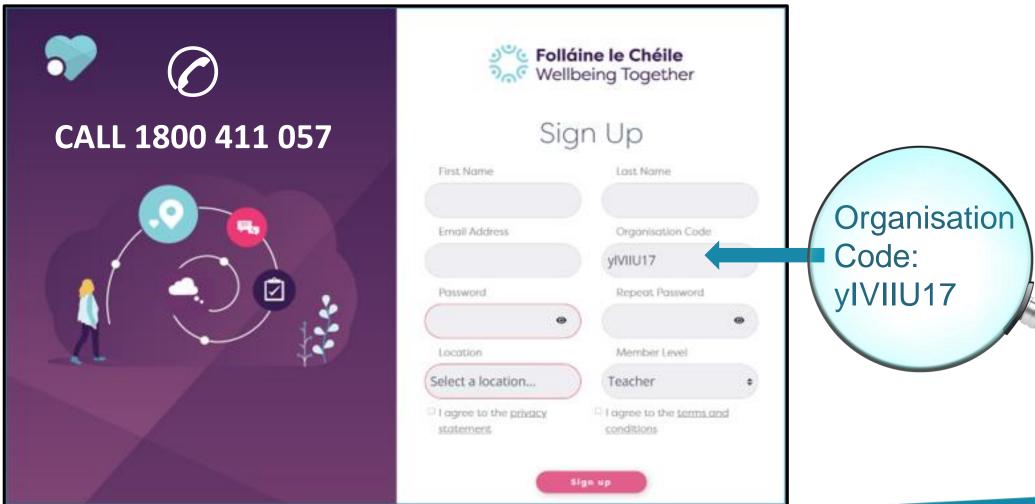


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## Employee Assistance Service (EAS)







#### Icebreaker

Check In Circle





## Two Day Overview

Overview		
Day 1	Day 2	
SPHE Specification	• Reflection	
<ul> <li>Role of the Teacher</li> </ul>	• Assessment	
• Resources	Collaborative Planning	
Pedagogical Approaches	Lesson Design	

# Overview of Day 1



Session 1 9:30 – 11:00	<ul> <li>Introduction to the Specification</li> <li>Introduction to the updated specification for the NCCA short course in SPHE (2023)</li> </ul>	
Tea/Coffee Break 11:00 - 11:15		
Session 2 11:15 - 13:00	<ul> <li>The Role of the Teacher</li> <li>Preparing to teach SPHE</li> <li>Creating a learning environment for SPHE</li> <li>Dealing with challenging situations in the SPHE class</li> </ul>	
Lunch 1:00 - 2:00		
Session 3 14:00 – 15:30	<ul> <li>The Learner Experience</li> <li>Teaching SPHE</li> <li>Resources to support the teaching of SPHE</li> <li>Pedagogical approaches in the SPHE classroom</li> </ul>	

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# **Key Messages**

SPHE contributes to building a cohesive, compassionate and fair society; one that is inclusive of all genders, sexualities, ethnicities, religious beliefs/worldviews, social classes and abilities/disabilities.

SPHE focuses on developing the core social and emotional skills of self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness and relationship skills.

Through the use of critical and participative pedagogies, SPHE can provide a safe, supportive and non-judgemental space where students' self-awareness and awareness of others can grow, and where they engage in reflection and dialogue, and identify actions they can take to protect and promote their own wellbeing and that of others.

# By the end of this day participants will have





Explored the updated specification, the strands and the learning outcomes



Gained a deeper understanding of the role of the SPHE teacher and the creation of a safe, inclusive SPHE classroom

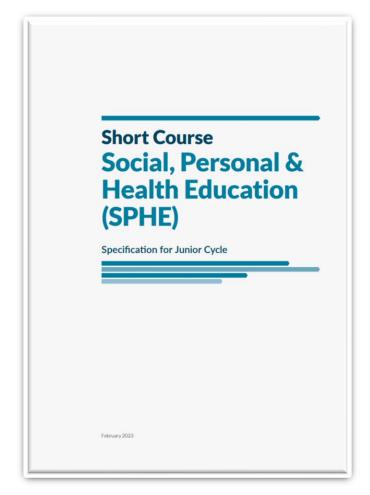


Considered SPHE in the context of inclusive pedagogies and effective teaching and learning approaches and resources



#### Session 1

Introduction to the Updated Specification for the NCCA Short Course in SPHE (2023)





### Wellbeing and the Curriculum

400 timetabled hours of Wellbeing for all incoming first years from August 2022



Whole School Wellbeing

135 hours PE

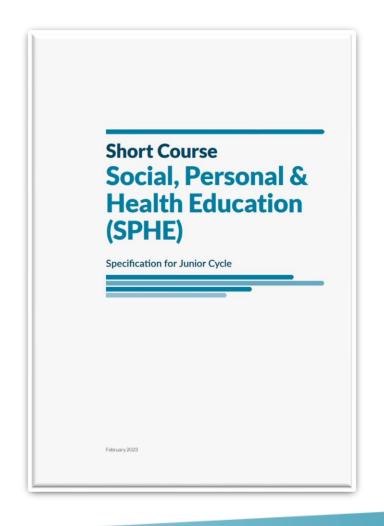
100 hours CSPE

100 hours SPHE

65 hours
Other Areas of
Wellbeing



# Rationale for the Updated Specification



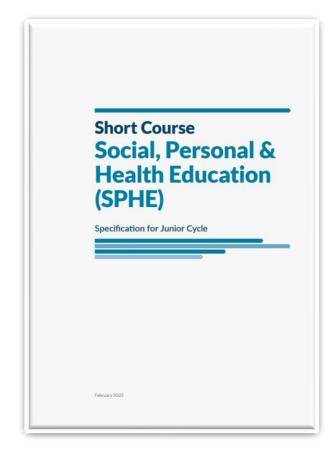
What are the key messages?





#### Aim of SPHE

"This course aims to build students' self-awareness and positive self-worth; to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills, dispositions and values that will support them to lead fulfilling and healthy lives; empower them to create, nurture and maintain respectful and loving relationships with self and others; and enhance their capacity to contribute positively to society."

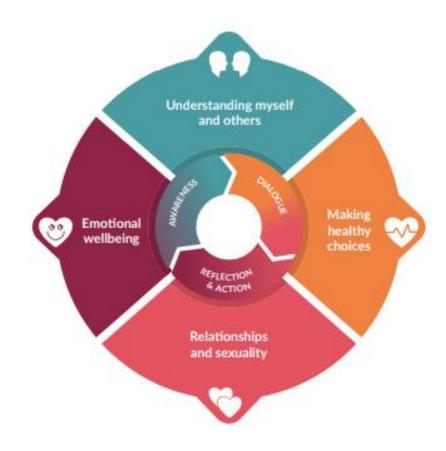


(DE, 2023, p.5)



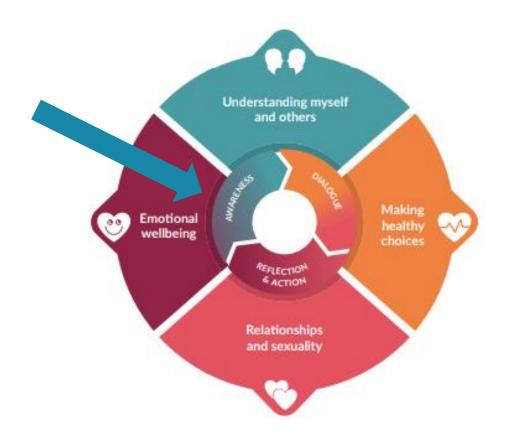
#### Overview: Course

SPHE is designed around four interconnected strands and three cross-cutting elements.





## Cross-Cutting Elements in SPHE





### Progression of Learning

This spiral approach allows students to revisit important themes over the three years.

In revisiting learning outcomes, it is important to ensure that there is a progression of learning.

Consult regularly with students to ascertain how to plan teaching and learning using the learning outcomes so that the learning is responsive to students' particular needs, questions and concerns.



(DE, 2023, p.13)



### SPHE and Key Skills

#### **Activity**

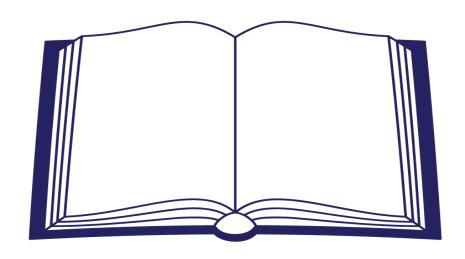






### Introduction to the Specification

#### Activity





(DE, 2023, pp. 14 - 17)

Considerations When Using Learning Outcomes



Identify related
learning outcomes
from across the
specification
strands & emerging
themes that could
form a unit of learning

All agree to the key learning to be achieved in the unit of learning

Considerations in planning using Learning Outcomes

Consider how to gather the best evidence of student learning

Consider your students' prior knowledge, the relevance to their needs & lives and their age & stage of development

Ensure that assessment and reporting aligns with the learning outcomes





Identify Related
Learning
Outcomes

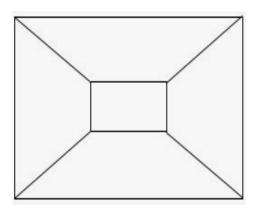


- **1.3** explore the range of influences and life experiences that can impact on self-image and self-esteem and identify ways to nurture a positive sense of self-worth
- **4.1** discuss the fluid nature of emotional wellbeing and ways to nurture and protect it
- **4.4** discuss ways to support themselves and others in challenging times and where/how/when to seek support, if needed



# Learning Outcomes Explored

#### **Placemat Activity**



- Identify related learning outcomes from within a strand or across the strands
- Jot these into the individual section of the placemat
- Consider 'important themes' that may be emerging from these related learning outcomes
- Collaboratively agree themes that may be prioritised for 1<sup>st</sup> years
- Place the agreed themes in the centre of the placemat

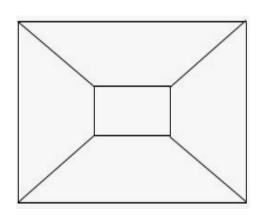






### Learning Outcomes Explored

#### Placemat Activity

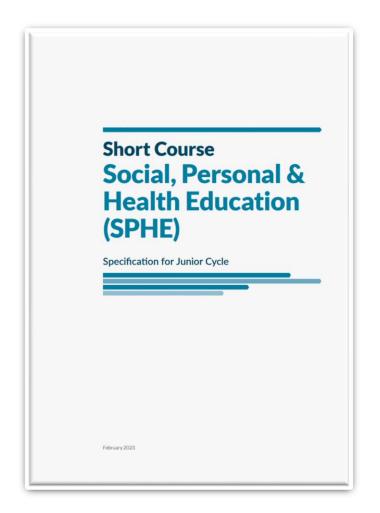


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#### Session 2

The Role of the Teacher



#### Resources and Supports



#### NCCA SPHE Toolkit 2023

Curriculum Specification 2016

Curriculum Specification 2023

Assessment Guidelines (2016)

**SPHE Toolkit** 



Preparing to teach



Teaching SPHE/RSE



Resources for teaching and learning SPHE/RSE 2023

#### Qualities of a Teacher



**Activity** 

Pause & reflect...

Think about a teacher that inspired you...

What words would you use to describe them?

Menti Code:







### Resources and Supports

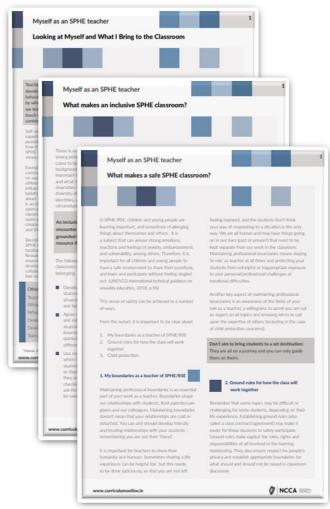
Classroom Practice - Myself as an SPHE teacher

#### 11 documents to support your practice

- How can I model positive relationships?
- The teacher as facilitator of learning
- What makes a safe SPHE classroom?
- Dealing with disclosure about sexual abuse
- Taking a fresh look at teaching about food
- Choosing resources questions to consider
- Communicating with parents/carers about SPHE
- Working with external facilitators

\*Looking at myself and what I bring to the classroom\*

- \*Dealing with challenging/sensitive conversations\*
- \*What makes an inclusive SPHE classroom?\*





### Oide

### Myself as an SPHE Teacher

Activity - CNQ

Read through your assigned document
In your Professional Learning Booklet jot
down:

- What **Connections** did you make with the document from your own class experience?
- Did you learn anything New?
- Have you any further Questions?





# Developing a Class Contract/Ground Rules

Openness while Respecting Boundaries

Listening Respectfully

Right to Pass

Using Language

**Asking Questions** 

**Sharing Time** 



### What Makes a Safe SPHE Classroom

#### Classroom Practice

Privacy in the Classroom

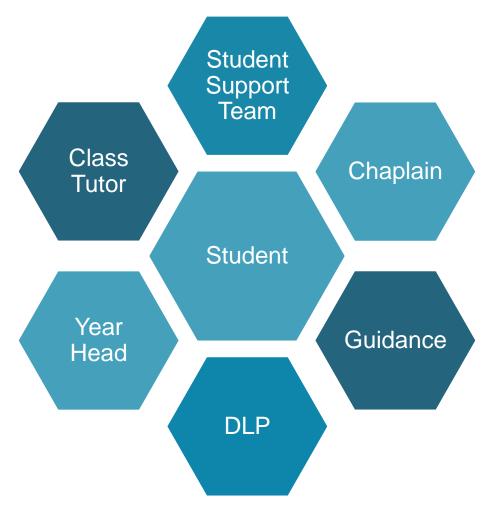
Limits to Confidentiality

Age of Consent

Role of Designated Liaison Person (DLP)



## Referral System





#### Inclusive and Appropriate Language in SPHE

What would be considered inclusive and appropriate language?

- Assume diversity
- Use gender-neutral language
- Avoid heteronormative language and assumptions
- Use plain English
- Avoid using the word 'normal'
- Use age appropriate and differentiated language





#### Resources and Supports

Classroom Practice – Myself as an SPHE Teacher

#### **Documents to support your practice**

Looking at myself and what I bring to the classroom How can I model positive relationships?
The teacher as facilitator of learning

Dealing with sensitive/challenging conversations

What makes an inclusive SPHE classroom?

What makes a safe SPHE classroom?

Dealing with disclosure about sexual abuse?

Choosing resources – questions to consider

Communicating with parents/carers about SPHE

Working with external facilitators





# Dealing with Challenging Situations in the SPHE Class



#### Case Studies













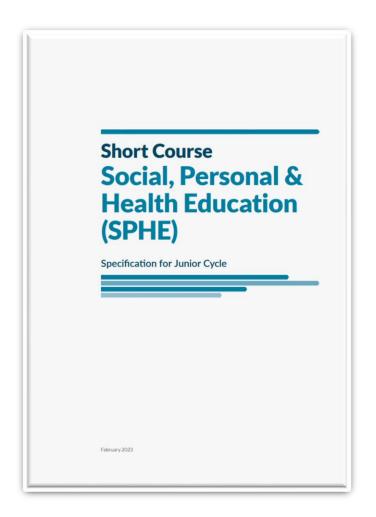






#### Session 3

The Learner Experience





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#### Icebreaker

#### Riddles

What question can you never answer 'yes' to?

What can't talk but will reply when spoken to?

I have lakes with no water, mountains with no stone and cities with no buildings?



Considerations when using Learning Outcomes



Oide

All agree to the key learning to be achieved in the unit of learning

Identify related
learning outcomes
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Considerations in planning using Learning Outcomes

Consider how to gather the best evidence of student learning

Consider your students' prior knowledge, the relevance to their needs & lives and their age & stage of development

Ensure that assessment and reporting aligns with the learning outcomes



#### SPHE Resources



teaching and learning

Resources for

SPHE/RSE 2023





## Resources and Supports

#### Classroom Practice - SPHE Teaching Approaches

Student Voice in SPHE

Creative Approaches to Assessment in SPHE

Effective Pedagogical Approaches in SPHE

Student Reflection in SPHE

The Experiential Learning Cycle

Considerations when planning for a diversity of

learners in SPHE



Teaching SPHE/RSE



Effective Pedagogical Approaches



# Effective Pedagogical Approaches



**Experiential Learning Cycle** 

Experiencing
Activity stage
role-play/ video/text/game/
quiz/demonstration

#### **Applying**

Thinking about ways to apply learning to situations/reflecting on changes in attitude

#### **Processing**

Sharing/comparing/ reflecting on experience Making sense of information and feelings

Generalising
Focus shifts from
analysis to forming
opinions and principles

(Kolb, 1984)

# Pedagogical Approach Where Do You Stand?



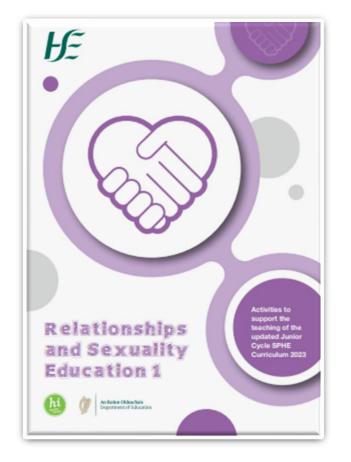




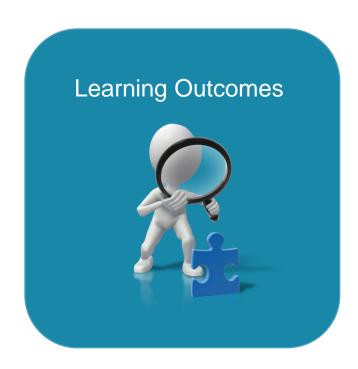


#### Stimulus Material

#### Case Study





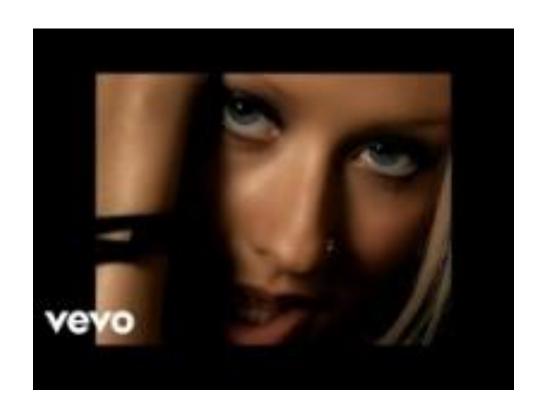


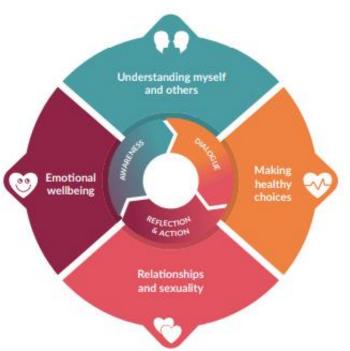
The friendship of Alex and Sam

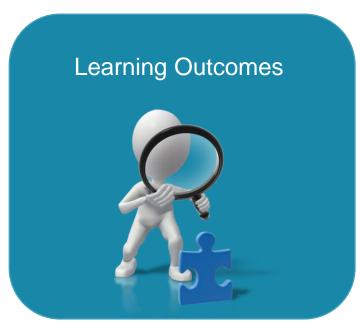
Oide

# Stimulus Material Music











# Digital Learning







## Participant Reflection

Individual Reflection 3-2-1



- 3 new things you learned
- 2 things that you will implement in your SPHE class
- 1 thing that you will read up on in more detail



# During this day participants have



Explored the updated specification, the strands and the learning outcomes



Gained a deeper understanding of the role of the SPHE teacher and the creation of a safe, inclusive SPHE classroom



Considered SPHE in the context of inclusive pedagogies and effective teaching and learning approaches and resources



#### Overview

Overview	
Day 1	Day 2
<ul> <li>SPHE</li> <li>Specification</li> </ul>	• Reflection
<ul> <li>Role of the Teacher</li> </ul>	• Assessment
• Resources	<ul> <li>Collaborative</li> <li>Planning</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Pedagogical Approaches</li> </ul>	Lesson Design



#### Thank You



# Day 2 Junior Cycle Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)

An Introduction to the Updated Specification for the NCCA Short Course in SPHE (2023)

**Facilitator:** 



# **Short Course** Social, Personal & **Health Education** (SPHE) Specification for Junior Cycle



#### **Padlet Wall**

Resources & Supports



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# Two Day Overview

Overview	
Day 1	Day 2
SPHE Specification	• Reflection
<ul> <li>Role of the Teacher</li> </ul>	• Assessment
• Resources	Collaborative Planning
Pedagogical Approaches	Lesson Design

# Overview of Day 2



Session 4 9:30 – 11:00	Reflection and Assessment in SPHE  Reflection in the SPHE Classroom Ongoing Assessment Classroom-Based Assessment	
Tea/Coffee Break 11:00 - 11:15		
Session 5 11:15 - 13:00	<ul> <li>Teachers' Collective / Collaborative Practice</li> <li>Considerations for Planning</li> <li>Student Participation</li> <li>Long-Term Planning</li> <li>Collaborative Planning in Wellbeing</li> </ul>	
Lunch 1:00 - 2:00		
Session 6 14:00 - 15:30	<ul> <li>Teachers' Individual Practice</li> <li>Units of Learning</li> <li>Designing a Lesson</li> </ul>	



# Key Messages

'The SPHE course supports a wide variety of approaches to assessment. It is envisaged that most assessment in SPHE will be formative in nature and students will provide evidence of their learning through multiple means of expression, including oral, written, visual, digital and art-based pieces.'

(DE, 2023, p.18)

'Teachers view collaboration as a means to improve student learning and also to enhance their own professional learning. They engage in constructive collaborative practice, and in collaborative review of their practice.'

(DE, Looking at Our School, 2022, p.33)

'Teachers select and use planning,
preparation and assessment practices that
progress students' learning.'

(DE, Looking at Our School, 2022, p.30)





# By the end of this day participants will



Apply knowledge of the specification to develop an understanding of assessment, reflecting and reporting in SPHE



Consider how to adopt the updated specification in their own school context



Examine a practical approach to support the planning and development of a context led SPHE programme



Spend time on each of the areas of planning, working collaboratively and individually through a range of pedagogical approaches



## Getting to Know You Game

Share...

Red... a favourite food

Orange... a favourite movie or TV show

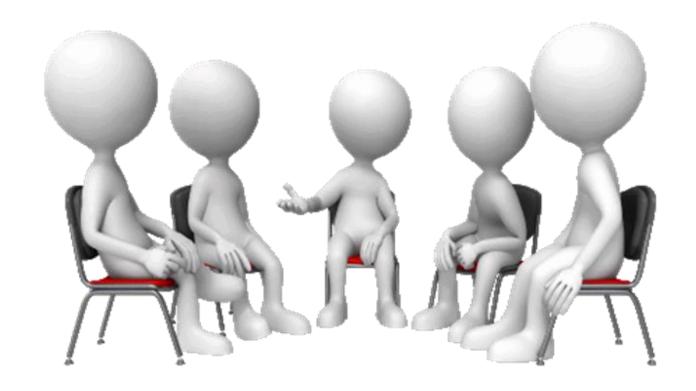
Green... a favourite song or musician

Purple... something you can't live without





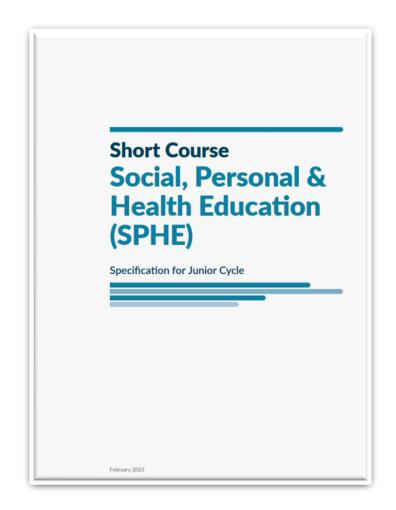
# Reconnecting with Day 1





#### Session 4

Reflection and Assessment in SPHE





## Resources and Supports

#### Classroom Practice - SPHE Teaching Approaches

Student Voice in SPHE

Creative Approaches to Assessment in SPHE

Effective Pedagogical Approaches in SPHE

Student Reflection in SPHE

The Experiential Learning Cycle

Considerations when planning for a diversity of

learners in SPHE



Teaching SPHE/RSE



#### Reflection and Action

#### **Cross-Cutting Element**



# What does student reflection mean?





# Teaching SPHE

Awareness, Dialogue and Reflection & Action in SPHE

To help you to plan

To voice your own questions, ideas or insights

next steps/actions

To develop your selfawareness

> Benefits for Students

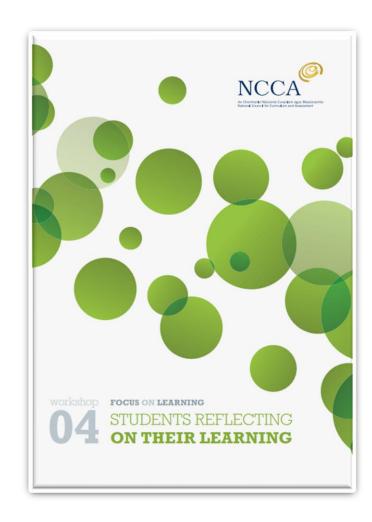
To allow you to change your mind

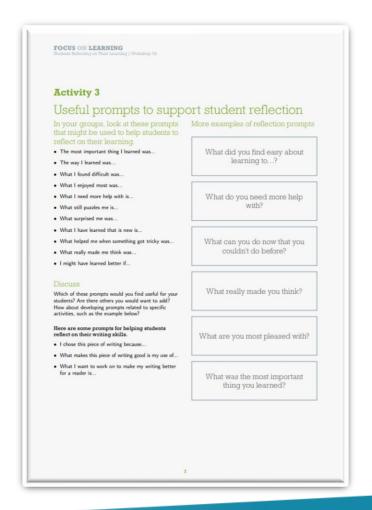
To track your personal growth

To make sense of your learning



# Prompts to Support Student Reflection



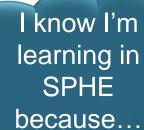




#### Student Reflection

**Using Reflective Prompts** 

What I enjoyed most today (or about this topic)...



What do I like about learning in SPHE?
What would I change?

If I knew then what I know now what advice would I give myself?

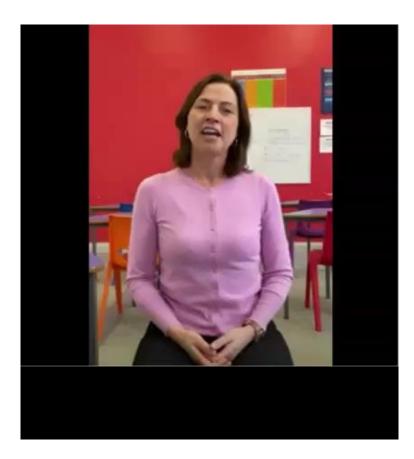
Do I need to talk to someone? Where can I go for help?

Something I want to do differently now..



#### Reflection in Action in the SPHE





Catherine O'Connor, Limerick Educate Together Secondary School

#### Think, Pair, Share

- How does reflection feature in your SPHE classes?
- Do you ask your students to reflect orally, write their reflections down or do both?
- How does reflection help the students with their learning?
- Do you reflect as a teacher and if so, for what reasons?

Considerations when using Learning Outcomes



All agree to the key learning to be achieved in the unit of learning

Identify related
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Considerations in planning using Learning Outcomes

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Ensure that assessment and reporting aligns with the learning outcomes



## Resources and Supports

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Teaching SPHE/RSE



#### Assessment

#### Purpose of Assessment in SPHE

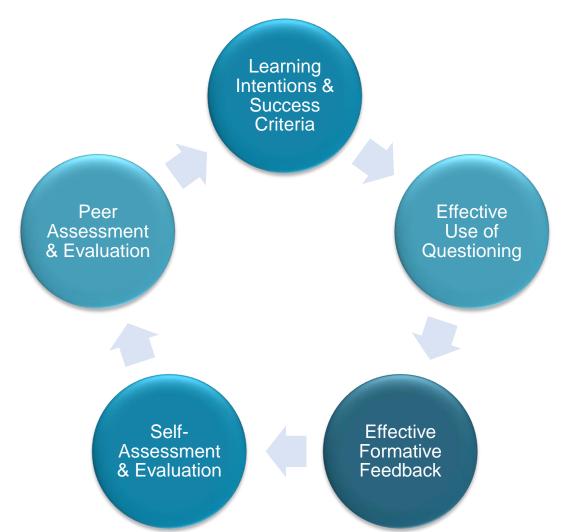
Assessment in SPHE is not about setting tasks in order to accumulate a record of marks.

The focus of assessment is on allowing students to demonstrate the **knowledge**, **skills** and **dispositions** they have gained through their engagement in learning in SPHE.





### Formative Assessment Principles





(NCCA, 2015)



#### Assessment

#### Creative Approaches to Assessment in SPHE



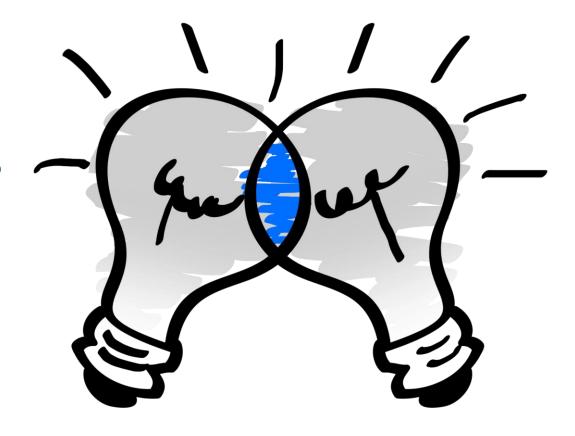




### Modes of Assessment

**Activity** 

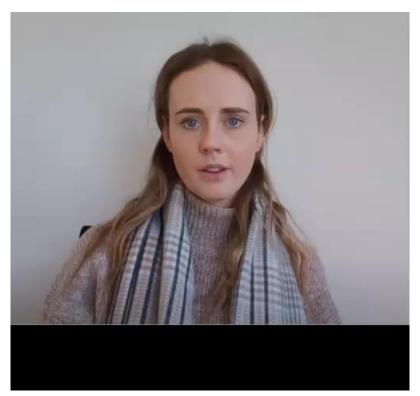
How do you check in on the learning happening in your SPHE classroom?





#### Assessment

#### Assessment Practice in the SPHE Classroom



Mary Buggy, Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown

From watching the video do you have any new ideas that you would consider useful to support ongoing assessment in your classroom?



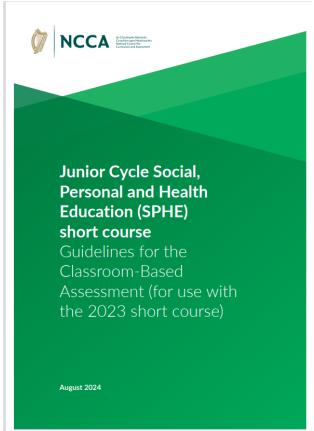
- Completed in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year
- Choice-Wide range of formats

Portfolio of my learning and reflection in SPHE

OR

Taking action for SPHE







### Classroom-Based Assessment

Considering the diversity of learners and contexts, and to support maximum flexibility and choice, students will engage in one of the following CBAs:

#### Option 1 - Portfolio of my learning and reflection in SPHE

Title	Format	Student Preparation
Portfolio of my learning and my reflection on learning in SPHE	Individual selection of items of work, such as digital, written texts, posters, audio-visual or multi-modal	Students will choose three pieces of work, completed over time and linked to different strands of learning within the course, and present these accompanied by a reflection on why each piece was chosen and how it marked important learning for the student in SPHE.



### Classroom-Based Assessment

#### Option 2 -Taking Action for SPHE

Title	Format	Student Preparation
Taking action for SPHE	Individual or small group project that can be presented in a wide range of formats	Students will, over a specified time, with support and guidance from the teacher, research, report and reflect on an action they have taken to raise awareness about or promote an aspect of health/wellbeing studied in the SPHE short course.

(DE, 2024, p.5)

# Classroom-Based Assessment Reporting

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

(JCPA)



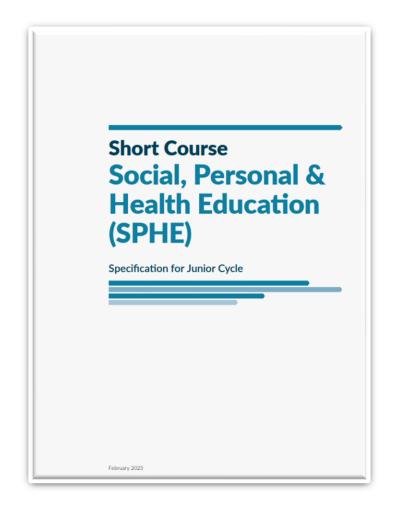






### Session 5

Teachers' Collective/Collaborative Practice





# Why Planning is Important in SPHE?



Generates a clear roadmap for planning SPHE across all 3 junior cycle years

Ensures a spiral, developmental approach is taken

Ensures planning is responsive to students emerging needs

Maintains a high standard of teaching, learning and assessment and ensures no omissions



# Planning Across the Three Years of Junior Cycle



Considerations when using Learning Outcomes

Oide

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learning outcomes
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Ensure that assessment and reporting aligns with the learning outcomes



# Wellbeing Events

Are there school events happening that certain units would reinforce and help engage students in a more meaningful way?





### Student Participation

Student Voice in the SPHE Classroom

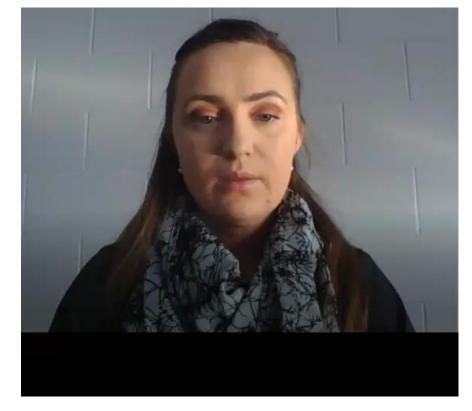
#### While listening to the video please consider:

How creating opportunities to enhance student participation, has enriched the teacher's classroom experience.

Briefly describe how?

#### After listening to this video please consider:

What does student voice mean in your school context, having heard from another SPHE teacher?



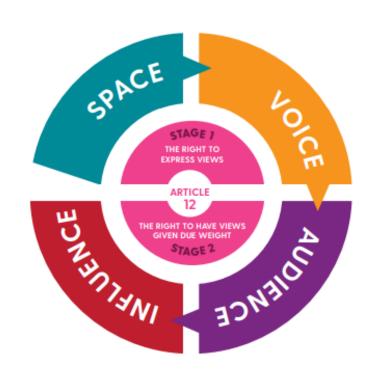
Emma Manning, Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown



### Oide

# Integrating Student Participation

Introducing the Lundy Model





Article 12 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

"Young people have a right to have their voices heard and for adults to listen and take them seriously."

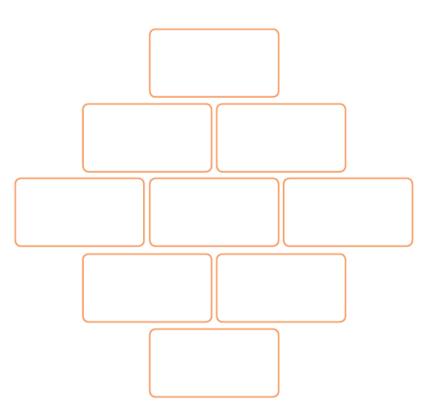














# Case Study School





# Long-Term Planning

Year Group: Teachers:			<u> </u>	<u>Reviewed:</u>		
	Summer - Midterm 1	Midterm 1 - Christmas	Christmas - Midterm 2	Midterm 2 - Easter	Easter - Summer	Reflection
Year 1						
Unit Title/s						
Learning Outcomes						
Assessment/Reporting						
Year 2						
Unit Title/s						
Learning Outcomes						
Assessment/Reporting						
Year 3						
Unit Title/s						
Learning Outcomes						
Assessment/Reporting						



# Collaborative Planning

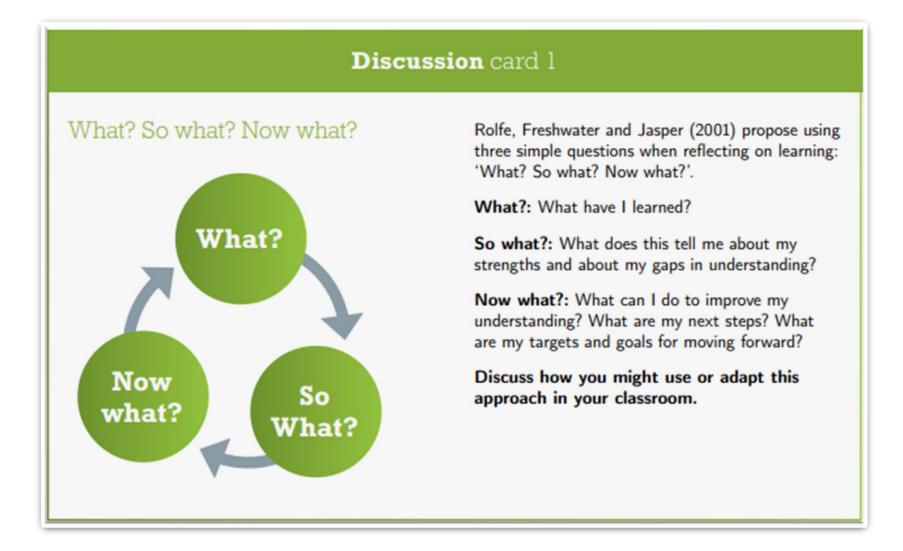
#### Our Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme (Year 1) – Developing a shared vision, and a coherent, collaborative approach

	Year 2	September	October	November	December	Review/Feedback
CSPE	Unit Title Learning Outcomes					
PE	Unit Title Learning Outcomes					
SPHE	Unit Title Learning Outcomes					
Othe r	Unit Title Learning Outcomes					
Potential Collaborative Themes						
	Collaborative Vellbeing-related Events					
Potential links with other subjects						

### Participant Reflection



#### The Rolfe, Freshwater and Jasper (2001) Approach



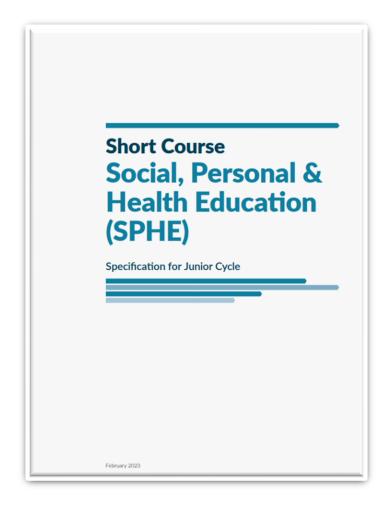






### Session 6

Teachers' Individual Practice



### Planning for your School Context

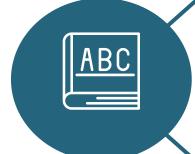




Is there learning that needs to be prioritised for the group? Why?



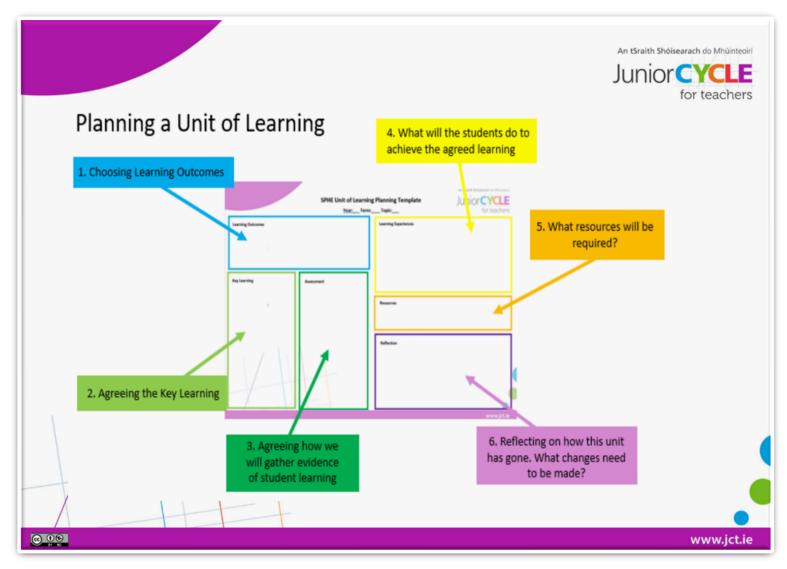
Does this learning foster a range of skills in all students?



Has this group already engaged with this topic at another point? If so, what am I doing that will build on that prior knowledge.



# Planning a Unit of Learning



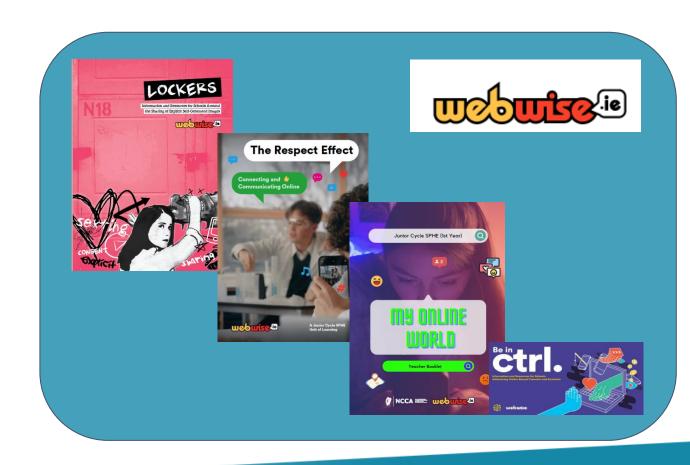


### Resources and Supports

#### Resources for Teaching and Learning in SPHE

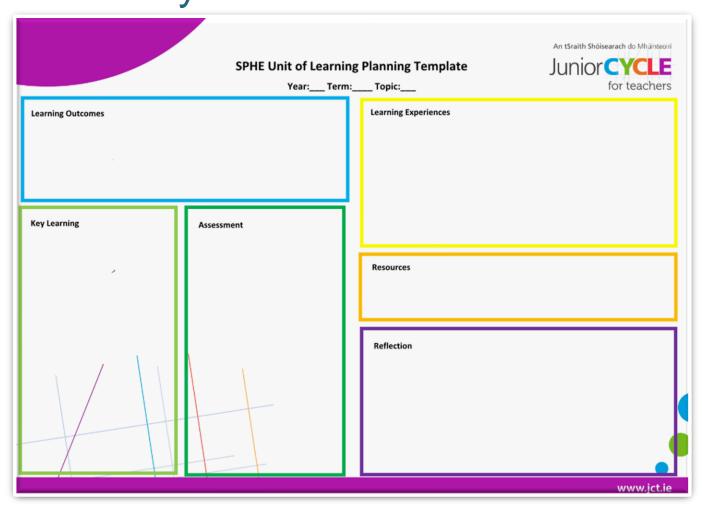


Resources for teaching and learning SPHE/RSE 2023





# Unit of Learning Activity



Create a unit of learning using the headings on the template document

#### Think about the...

- themes/topics you identified
- pedagogical approaches you experienced
- modes of assessment
- resources you identified



## Lesson Design

#### Activity:

Lessons that form part of a Unit of Learning

Explore and design a lesson for a 1st /2nd year group.

- Discuss and document what stimulus materials and/or pedagogical approaches you might use.
- What ongoing assessment approaches could you use to check for understanding?
- How will you prompt student reflection within this lesson?

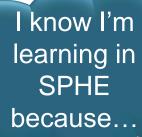




## Participant Reflection

**Using Reflective Prompts** 

What I enjoyed most today (or about this topic)...



What do I like about learning in SPHE? What would I change?

If I knew then what I know now what advice would I give myself?

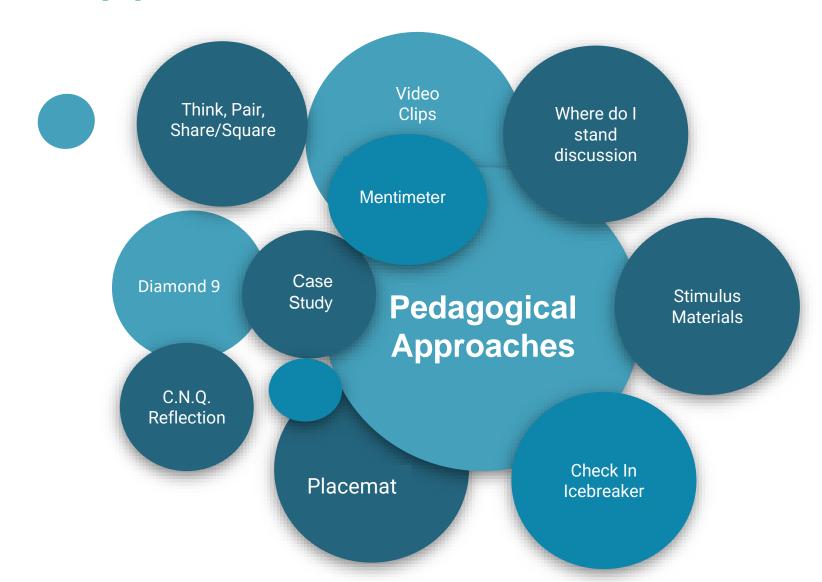
Do I need to talk to someone? Where can I go for help?

Something I want to do differently now..



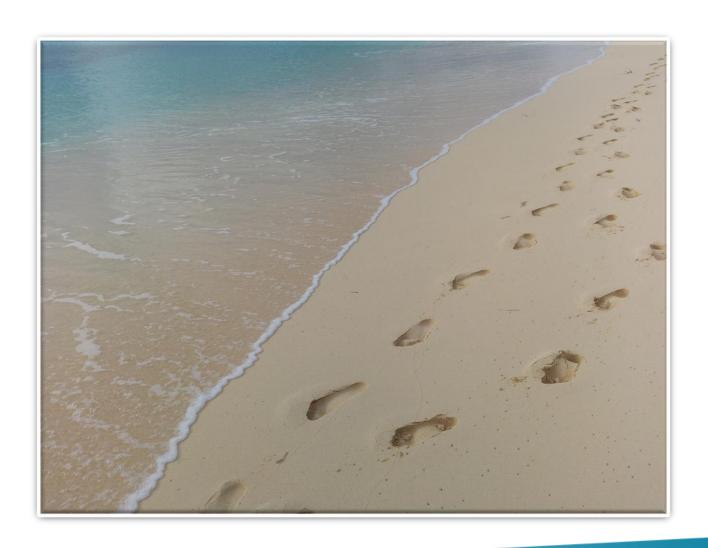


# Pedagogical Approaches



# Next Steps







# Questions





# During this day participants have



Applied knowledge of the specification to develop an understanding of assessment, reflecting and reporting in SPHE



Considered how to adopt the updated specification in their own school context



Examined a practical approach to support the planning and development of a context led SPHE programme



Spent time on each of the areas of planning, working collaboratively and individually through a range of pedagogical approaches



### Feedback



https://tinyurl.com/JCSPHE-Evaluation

Overview		
Day 1	Day 2	
<ul><li>SPHE Specification</li></ul>	• Reflection	
<ul> <li>Role of the Teacher</li> </ul>	• Assessment	
• Resources	Collaborative Planning	
<ul> <li>Pedagogical Approaches</li> </ul>	Lesson Design	



### Thank You

