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Dear Members of the Education and Skills Committee,

As an S3 Pupil, I would like to take this opportunity to express my views regarding the Committee's work on Personal and Social Education (PSE), which I understand is a matter of Current Business, and also the topic for an upcoming round-table discussion. As the Committee wants to understand what the main issues are in relation to the content and delivery of PSE, and as they are keen to hear from young people, I would like to provide my submission, which intends to help the Committee decide what further work must be done on this topic.

MAIN ISSUE IN RELATION TO CONTENT AND DELIVERY

I am concerned about how PSE is delivered and supported across Scotland. PSE lessons should allow for children to develop a knowledge and understanding of the issues which face them and their society.

Upon reading through Facebook comments, I was made aware of the fact that PSE is not a mandatory part of the curriculum, and this shocked me. This should be remedied by having a statutory duty to provide precise content for PSE, by modern methods of delivery, such as:

- ❖ Class-wide discussion and debate
- ❖ One-on-one, personal level conversation
- ❖ Usage of SMART and Show Me Boards, as well as mini-games and dramas
- ❖ **AND NOT**... Heads down, pen on paper

RESPONSE TO "WHAT SHOULD PERSONAL AND SOCIAL EDUCATION SESSIONS BE ABOUT?"

Learners should engage with discussions about the changing nature of political systems, and they should also develop an awareness of the social and economic issues that they will face in their lifetime. With the lowering of voting age, students must learn about the democratic process, and their growing (moral) responsibility to participate in elections on a local, national, and European level, be it by voting, or volunteering. This can be done through study and debate of the following units:

- ❖ Crime, justice, and the law
- ❖ Culture and society
- ❖ Democratic process
- ❖ Human rights and equality
- ❖ Worldwide news

Josh Traynor