

# Education and Skills Committee: Personal and Social Education (PSE)



*February 2017*

ENABLE Scotland is the largest voluntary organisation in Scotland of and for children and adults who have learning disabilities and their families. We provide personalised support to over 2700 people who have learning disabilities, and their families, in Scotland. Together with our 5000 members, for more than 60 years, we have campaigned for an equal society for every person who has a learning disability.

ENABLE Scotland is pleased to submit evidence to the Education and Skills Committee on Personal and Social Education (PSE), in response to the call for views.

In 2016 ENABLE Scotland held a national conversation life at school for young people who have learning disabilities, and received evidence from more than 800 young people who have learning disabilities, parents, and members of the education workforce.

Those 800 voices inform ENABLE Scotland report and 22 recommendations for change published in December 2016: *#IncludED in the Main?! 22 Steps on the Journey to Inclusion for Every Pupil who has a Learning Disability*<sup>1</sup>

## **On Personal and Social Education:**

Through *#IncludED in the Main?!* ENABLE Scotland found, 60% of young people who have learning disabilities feel lonely at school, and 62.5% said: *"people don't understand me at school."*<sup>2</sup>

Almost half (43.48%) of the education workforce said children and young people need help to better understand and engage with their peers who have learning disabilities.<sup>3</sup>

This position is further evidenced by the fact that nearly one-third (29%) of 1550 secondary pupils in Scotland say they find it difficult to make friends with young people at their school who have a learning disability.<sup>4</sup>

To address the issues of isolation, exclusion and bullying, evidenced by *#IncludED in the Main?!*, adequate time and resource must be provided to develop both staff and pupil understanding of learning disability.

**Recommendation:** Lessons on Learning Disability should be embedded into the curriculum for all students. Pupils who have a learning disability themselves should be empowered to have a key role in this.

ENABLE Scotland looks forward to continuing our work with MSPs to take the next steps on the journey to inclusion for every pupil who has a learning disability. We hope members will take the opportunity to consider our full report and 22 recommendations for change – available on our [website](#).

## **For more information on any part of this submission please contact:**

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<sup>1</sup> ENABLE Scotland, *#IncludED in the Main?! - 22 Steps on the Journey to Inclusion for Every Pupil who has a Learning Disability*, 2016

<http://www.enable.org.uk/includedinthemain/Documents/IncludED%20in%20the%20Main%20-%2022%20Steps%20on%20the%20Journey%20to%20Inclusion.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> ENABLE Scotland, *#IncludED in the Main?! - 22 Steps on the Journey to Inclusion for Every Pupil who has a Learning Disability*, 2016

<sup>3</sup> ENABLE Scotland, *#IncludED in the Main?! - 22 Steps on the Journey to Inclusion for Every Pupil who has a Learning Disability*, 2016

<sup>4</sup> Ipsos MORI, Young People in Scotland Survey 2016 (question commissioned by ENABLE Scotland)