

RECEIVED  
12 OCT 2015



2015-0042039POSoS

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP  
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Rt Hon Fiona Mactaggart MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

2 October 2015

Dear Fiona

Thank you for your email of 18 September, enclosing correspondence from one of your constituents, about first aid education in schools.

I agree on the importance of first aid and emergency response procedures, and the Government recognises the value in equipping young people with the knowledge they need to carry these out. Schools are free to teach life-saving skills and may choose to do so as part of personal, social, health and economic education, building on the relevant statutory content in the national curriculum, such as the science programmes of study at key stages 3 and 4.

We believe, however, that head teachers are best placed to understand the needs of their pupils and do not need additional central prescription. Schools should have the freedom to tailor their own PSHE programmes to reflect the needs and views of their pupils. While we therefore have no plans to make it statutory for schools to build first aid into their curricula, many do teach these skills, working with organisations such as the British Heart Foundation or St John Ambulance.

This department is encouraging schools to use resources like the 'Call, Push, Rescue' training package provided by the British Heart Foundation, and seek advice from professional organisations, to support effective teaching. We are also encouraging schools to purchase automated external defibrillators at a discounted price as part of their first aid equipment. Raising awareness of CPR techniques will remain a matter for individual schools, but we anticipate that purchasing a defibrillator may prompt schools to do this more widely across the school community. This is set out in our health and safety guidance, which is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/o4e9hgz>.

Thank you for writing to this important matter.

Morgan  
Nicky

RT HON NICKY MORGAN MP