

Choosing resources – questions to consider

There are extensive resources available to support teaching and learning in SPHE. Drawing on a variety of resources can be helpful in meeting the needs of a diverse range of students. However, thoughtful consideration of the resources you select to use is important. The following questions will support you as you make choices for your particular school and classroom setting.

- What learning outcome(s) will this resource help achieve? Is this resource relevant to the curriculum and to my plan of work?
- Is it relevant to my students' lives and needs? How do I know?
(See **Student Voice and SPHE**)
- Will the resource appeal to my students? Will it be accessible to them – think about the language, layout, variety of media. Can I use or adapt the resource to enable students with SEN to engage in learning alongside their peers?
- Does the resource promote active and experiential learning? Will it prompt critical thinking, questioning, discussion and reflection?
- Is it age and stage appropriate? Remember that students frequently complain that SPHE materials are childish or patronising.
- Is it inclusive of the diversity of family forms, backgrounds, cultures and beliefs that exist? Does the resource respect the range of backgrounds and experiences in your class and in the wider community? Does it prompt students to consider different perspectives and viewpoints?
- Is it reinforcing or challenging bias and stereotypes in relation to gender, social class and ability/disability?
- Does it meaningfully reflect the lives of people of all gender and sexuality identities? Or are LGBTQ+ students invisible or treated as 'others'?
- Who has funded this resource? For example, is it funded by the drinks industry? The Department of Health has advised schools not to use any resources developed by organisations funded by the drinks industry (such as Drinkaware).
- Has the resource been created by a reputable source and include evidence-informed content and methodologies? If in doubt, always check it out.
- Is the resource seeking to promote a particular worldview, belief system or set of values?
- Does it confuse the distinctive role of SPHE and RE within the curriculum?
- Does the resource align with your school's RSE policy? When reviewing your RSE policy it is useful to include particular resources that your school uses as this is useful information for all SPHE teachers and particularly those coming new to the subject.

Don't forget to check if the resource has already been used by another teacher with your students and be sure to evaluate any resources you use - both with your students and with other teachers.