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Post-Primary Branch,
Block 2 (Ground Floor),
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To: Management Authorities of Second Level Schools

M11/03

Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) in all schools by September 2003

The Department of Education and Science wishes to confirm that all second level schools must timetable Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) as part of the Junior Cycle core curriculum from September 2003.

The time allocation recommended is the equivalent of one class period per week.

Schools were issued with copies of the syllabus in August 2000. The SPHE programme has been phased in from September 2000 (Circulars M22/00, M37/00 and M48/00 refer).

The SPHE Support Service

Information and support is available from the SPHE Support Service:

SPHE Support Service
(Post-Primary)
Marino Institute of Education
Griffith Avenue
Dublin 9.

Tel: (01) 805-7718
Fax: (01) 853-5113
Email: sphe@mie.ie
Website: www.sphe.ie

The SPHE Support Service (Post-Primary) is a partnership between the Department of Education and Science, the Department of Health and Children and the Health Boards. Supports have been offered to schools for the past three years and much progress is reported on efforts by schools to introduce and implement the SPHE programme.

Concerns are expressed for the health and well-being of young people, and surveys have raised concerns about the behaviour of young people in relation to alcohol, smoking, exercise and the use of illegal substances. In this context, the Department of Education and Science wishes to acknowledge the progress already made by many schools in implementing the SPHE programme.

SPHE in Senior Cycle

An SPHE syllabus for use at Senior Cycle level is in preparation by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment which plans to issue a discussion document shortly.

Please provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

John Dennehy,
Secretary General.

February, 2003