

Post-Primary

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The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

# The preventative curriculum

Easy-read version



# Hello from ETI

## Who we are and what we do

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) is an organisation that inspects the quality of education in schools and Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) centres:

- we work to make things better for you;
- we want to listen to your views to bring about improvements that will help you;
- we work with other people in the government to help improve your experiences of education; and
- in 2021/2022 we carried out an evaluation on the preventative curriculum in schools and EOTAS centres.

## What is the preventative curriculum?

We use the term preventative **curriculum** to describe:

- what the schools/EOTAS centres do to keep you safe;
- what you are learning about to help your personal and emotional development, including health, wellbeing and safety, and relationships; and
- the knowledge and information you are given by your school/centre to help you stay safe and develop healthy relationships, beliefs and attitudes as you grow up.





## What we did

We sent a questionnaire to all schools and EOTAS centres to find out what your teachers thought about the preventative curriculum.



As **your** views are very important to us, we sent a pupil questionnaire to those schools/centres who completed the teacher questionnaire.



We visited a **sample** of schools and centres to speak with you, some of your teachers and senior staff.



We met with some parents/carers to find out what they think about the preventative curriculum.



## What feedback did we get?



14,665

pupils from years 7, 10, 12 and 14 responded to our questionnaire



7082

P7 pupils responded



7583

Post-Primary pupils responded

### What other feedback did we get?

**509** schools and EOTAS centres responded to our questionnaire

**50** visits were made to schools and EOTAS centres to talk about some of the feedback from the questionnaires

**31** governors met with inspectors

**7** groups of parents/carers met with inspectors

**THANK  
YOU!**



# What post-primary pupils want

Post-primary pupils told us you want to learn more about:

homophobes and how to deal with them

how to deal with coming out

sex, consent and sexual violence

teenage pregnancy

how to recognise any kind of abuse

gambling

mental health, self-harm and suicide

rape involving drugs, alcohol, pressure and the way to report it

healthy relationships, red flags, boundaries and abusive signs

your body changing

information on birth control, STIs, sexual health and abortion

womens rights and respect

# Suggestions from post-primary pupils

Post-primary pupils' suggestions on how to improve the preventative curriculum

make it a more normalised topic

teachers could do their job and teach every child what they're entitled to be educated on [such as] sexual health, consent...

don't make us do the same things every year in a row

teach it more often...and reinforce it in other subjects too

it shouldn't be just a long presentation about relationships but rather a discussion

do not separate boys and girls into groups

more input from pupils... done more often

taught by someone with little bias and awareness outside of the school curriculum

more real-life situations

# Suggestions continued

Post-primary pupils' suggestions on how to improve the preventative curriculum

don't teach it through the lens of the church

use example situations more relevant to our age group

more inclusive talks






stop being so heteronormative in the content of the education

it could be less religiously based... more open conversations

teach how to report sexual harassment/rape from heterosexual and homosexual perspectives








## What you told us

-  almost all of you feel safe and cared for at school and know who to speak to if you are unhappy or worried;
-  you need most support in managing your emotional health and wellbeing and online and internet safety;
-  you want your views on the preventative curriculum to be heard;
-  you don't like teachers using resources which are outdated or which you have seen/used before; and
-  you would like the preventative curriculum in school to address issues that are relevant right now in your life.








## What your schools/centres told us

-  their top priority is to keep you safe;
-  they have focused on teaching you about emotional health and wellbeing and online digital safety as these are big issues for you;
-  they decide on the content of the preventative curriculum, which means some of you learn about particular issues, while some of you do not;
-  they need to do more to get your opinions and those of your parents/carers on the preventative curriculum so you are learning about current issues; and
-  they don't get enough professional support, resources and training to help them to teach you about the more sensitive issues, for example, abuse and child sexual exploitation.











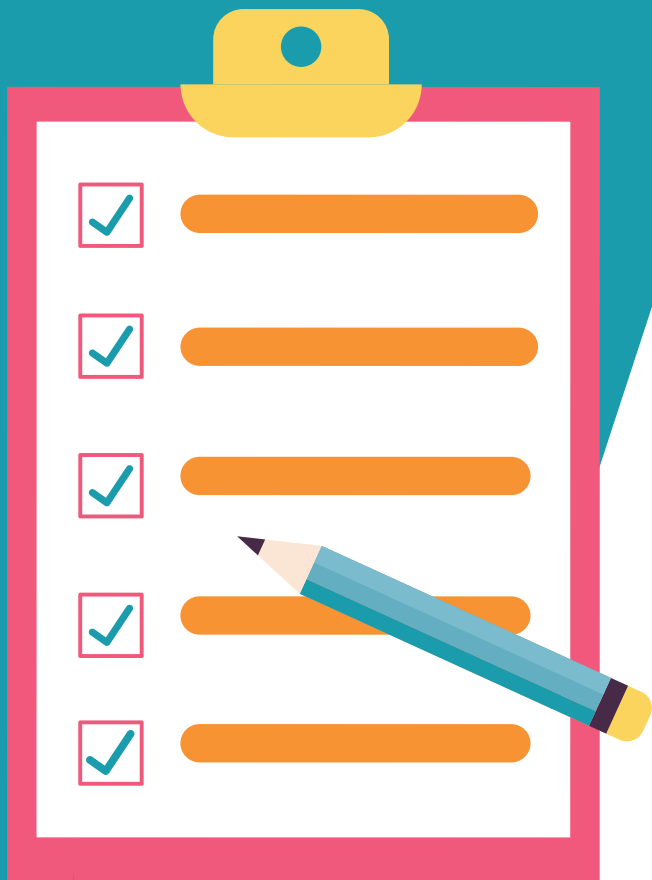
## What your parents/carers and governors told us

-  they are well-informed about how schools/centres keep you safe;
-  they think the preventative curriculum is important to help you to make informed and responsible decisions throughout your life;
-  teachers and classroom assistants work hard to look after your wellbeing;
-  they would like to know more about the preventative curriculum, such as what you are taught and when; and
-  your parents/carers want more information on the preventative curriculum so they can talk about it with you and help your understanding at home.

# What needs to be better for you

-  You want to be more involved in designing and reviewing the content of preventative curriculum, and how it is taught.
-  You want confident and knowledgeable teachers and classroom assistants to teach you about the things you want to learn, including the more sensitive issues.
-  You want all schools and centres to review their culture/ethos so that everyone feels welcome, respected and included, even if your views are different than others.
-  Schools/centres need to provide a preventative curriculum which is relevant and useful in your lives, now and the future.
-  School/centres need to review how all subjects can support you in learning about the preventative curriculum and contribute to developing your skills and understanding to make informed decisions.
-  The Department of Education and other government organisations need to work with schools/centres to support teachers to become more confident in planning and delivering the preventative curriculum.





## How will we know things are better?

ETI will work with the Department of Education and other organisations to find out how they are supporting schools/centres to make the preventative curriculum more relevant and useful for you.



ETI will ask staff in schools/centres how well they are listening and responding to your views about what you want to learn more about.



ETI will revisit this evaluation in a few years to see what progress has been made.



# Glossary

**EOTAS centres:** EOTAS stands for Education Other Than At School. Some pupils can attend EOTAS centres for a short period of time so the centre can support schools and pupils to focus on wellbeing.

**Abuse:** Abuse has different forms. It can include emotional, sexual, physical and neglect. The child/young person is never to blame when abuse occurs.

**CSE:** Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse in which a person(s) takes advantage of a child/young person and forces them into a sexual activity in return for something, such as money. Any child/young person can be a victim and it's never their fault.

**STI's:** Sexually transmitted infections are passed from one person to another through predominantly unprotected sexual contact.

**Normalised:** Normalisation is a process that makes behaviour and ideas seem normal and helps create a culture of acceptance.

**Heteronormative:** is to hold the assumption that most or all people are straight, and their gender identity corresponds with the sex registered for them at their birth.

If you are worried about any of the issues addressed, please talk to an adult in your school/centre.



ETI: Promoting Improvement in the Interest of all Learners



Providing inspection services for:  
Department of Education  
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