

Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Foghlam agus Sgilean



Scottish Government
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Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 4 June regarding inclusivity within the Scottish curriculum. I have received many pieces of correspondence raising similar points and asking that more is done to ensure that social inequality, racism and Black history are covered in the curriculum.

The Scottish Government stands in solidarity with the world-wide anti-racism movement. Correspondents are right to point to the crucial role played by what is taught in schools to educate our young people about Scotland's past and the importance of tolerance and anti-racism in Scotland's present.

Scotland's curriculum is not prescriptive. The Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) provides teachers with a flexible framework to choose what and how to teach by focusing on experiences and outcomes that children should have. Within this framework, there are already many opportunities for young people to learn about all aspects of history, heritage and culture of Scotland, including the role that Scotland played in the slave trade. This is true as part of the broad general education and as part of courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level.

To support schools to make diverse choices about how they approach the curriculum, Education Scotland officials are in the process of working to exemplify how race equality can be addressed

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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through whole school approaches which seek to build and champion diversity throughout all aspects of the ethos and life of the school, as well as across all curricular areas. An external reference group comprising BEMIS, CRER, Show Racism the Red Card, the Scottish Refugee Council and the Equality and Human Rights Commission is guiding the work, and a race equality in education resource for practitioners is nearly complete, due for launch in September. The initial focus has been on curriculum mapping and highlighting resources, and the next phase will look at how work with Community Learning and Development and with parents and families can support whole school approaches.

As part of this wider work, Education Scotland has reviewed the social studies Experiences and Outcomes and benchmarks, ahead of reviewing other curriculum areas. They confirm that these provide opportunities for teaching and learning about the issues raised in the correspondence. Education Scotland has developed a quick reference guide to key resources for practitioners about Black history and Minority Ethnic heritage.

I hope that this provides reassurance that we are working to ensure that issues around social inequality, racism and Black history are being addressed within the curriculum and that the diversity of our society is recognised and reflected within our education system overall.

Yours sincerely



JOHN SWINNEY

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