Engaging student voice in support of planning SPHE in TY

Schools are encouraged to design learning experiences in TY that meet the needs and interests of their students. Therefore, consulting with students is an important aspect of planning for teaching and learning. Here are some suggested ways of doing this.

Looking back

You might have a group of students who have experienced junior cycle SPHE across within different classes and schools. It is helpful to find out what prior learning in junior cycle SPHE they have in common and if there are gaps or differences.

To support this process print off the Learning Outcomes from the **JC SPHE specification** p. 14–17. Then copy these 4 pages once so that you have 8 pages. This will allow you to create 8 small groups within the class.

In class, explain to students that you need their help in planning for learning in TY SPHE. They will be working in small groups to reflect on what they already learned and found useful in SPHE and also to identity any important topics that they missed out on or felt needed more attention.

Form 8 small groups and give each group 8 large post-its and one page of LOs.

Each group should read through their set of learning outcomes (2 groups will have the same) and then discuss these 2 questions:

1. Which of these learning outcomes did you find most helpful or interesting in JC SPHE and would you like to learn more about this in TY?

2. Are there any learning outcomes that you did not learn about, and that you consider important?

    ➤   Use 2 post-its to record the groups' agreed answers and stick these on the back of the page.

    ➤   Then pass the pages around so that each group has a different Strand of Learning Outcomes.

    ➤   This can be repeated 4 times to allow all the groups consider all 4 Strands (10 mins each).

Looking forward

As a follow on, provide a set of questions for students to answer individually, such as

●   What topics, in particular, are you hoping will be discussed in SPHE class?

●   What particular questions do you have about these topics?

●   What types of learning do you like best in SPHE class?