



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Miss Natasha Chapman, Campaigns Officer for the University of Lincoln Politics Society
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KM/MB

21 March 2012

Dear Miss Chapman,

Thankyou for your email of 20 March about your campaign to include politics in the National Curriculum. I was also very interested to learn of your role as Campaigns Officer for the University of Lincoln Politics Society.

I am afraid that the Government and I do not support the inclusion of Politics as a subject within the National Curriculum. However, political education is part of overall compulsory citizenship education at Key Stages 3 and 4 (secondary) and is part of a non-statutory framework at Key Stages 1 and 2 (primary).

The Expert Panel who are currently reviewing the National Curriculum have recently said in their recommendations that:

Citizenship is of enormous importance in a contemporary and future-oriented education. However, we are not persuaded that study of the issues and topics included in citizenship education constitutes a distinct 'subject' as such. We therefore recommend that it be reclassified as part of the Basic Curriculum.

Being reclassified as part of the Basic Curriculum means that the subject is compulsory, but that programmes of study should be developed by schools in response to local needs and interests.

Very many thanks for contacting me. Please do keep in touch and let me know if I can be of any further help.

Yours sincerely,
Karl McCartney

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