

**PE1711/J**

North Ayrshire Council submission of 8 April 2019

North Ayrshire Council understands the importance placed on basic first aid skills and the benefits to children and young people in learning and practising these skills. However, it would not be appropriate to dictate to an empowered schools system that they incorporate basic first aid skills into their curriculum.

At present, a number of our primary schools incorporate basic first aid as an integral part of the curriculum but, at present, this is not common practice across all schools. Many schools report addressing first aid as part of an interdisciplinary project, such as health week or units such as 'People who help us', and some also report delivering specific first aid training, such as Heartstart. We have pledged to work with BHF Scotland to develop a plan to ensure that every secondary pupil receives CPR training at an appropriate age in the curriculum and to work with head teachers and education officials to make it happen.

In relation to teaching resources, the most commonly used were the Heartstart materials, with both staff and pupils being trained in the use of this resource. This is positively welcomed by staff.

In relation to first aid training in schools, many schools identified that they had staff who had been trained in a variety of first aid skills – such as basic first aid, CPR and again Heartstart – but these staff are not necessarily being used to deliver workshops or lessons to pupils. A few schools reported using outside agencies, such as the Red Cross, to deliver first aid training to pupils.

Each of our schools has at least one trained first aider on the staff. A record is kept of this centrally.