

# Who's already supporting this cause and our petition to: Get Mental Health Education on the UK School Curriculum

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## The Public

- Over 175,000 people have signed our petition at the time of writing. [Join them](#)
  - 103,554 people signed the petition by charity Shaw Mind Foundation last year to [‘Make mental health education compulsory in primary and secondary schools.’](#) which led to a debate in Parliament and contributed to a [Green Paper](#) being published by The Department of Health and The Department of Education.
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## Department of Education

Since starting this petition the department, led by Damian Hinds MP, have put forward initial outlines of how to make Mental Health Education a part of their compulsory curriculum. The public consultation stage for these reforms ended on the 7th November and so we are awaiting the outcome of this and a debate in Parliament for this matter having passed 100,000 petition signatures.

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## National Assembly for Wales

We have recently been asked by the Assembly to create a separate petition towards a debate in their devolved Parliament. We look forward to submitting this petition with further evidence specific for Wales once we reach the required signatures.

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## Ofsted

They are already considering how to best to monitor this kind of support in schools and *‘...agree that mental health and well-being are important issues, which is why children’s personal development will be one of the four judgements proposed for the new Education Inspection Framework. It will take effect in September 2019.’*

They have also invited our input into a consultation they plan to open next year when drafting the updated inspection framework.

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## Politicians

- **Caroline Lucas MP** Co-Leader of The Green Party who told us *“I am proud to support the campaign by Mental Podcast to get mental health education on the curriculum. The understanding we develop as young people about our own mental health, and that of others, has lifelong repercussions, not only in the*

*personal relationships we form, but on our careers and prospects, and the ability to reach our potential.”*

- **Nicola Sturgeon MSP**, First Minister of Scotland and leader of the SNP who told us *“Learning in Health and wellbeing should give children and young people the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing and we are currently undertaking a national review of Personal and Social Education which will report at the end of this year.”*
- **Former Plaid Cymru Leader and Rhondda AM Leanne Wood** who told us *“I support plans to for mental health education/awareness to be taught in schools in Wales where education is devolved. I have spoken to teachers who tell me that demand for mental health support for pupils is growing and that services are not coping with that demand.”*
- **Liz Saville Roberts MP** of Dwyfor Meirionnydd with Plaid Cymru who told us *“every single person will be affected by mental health problems, either directly or through someone they love. I am proud to support Mental Podcast with this campaign, because I believe it is vital that education is the key to breaking the stigma around mental health, so no one has to suffer alone.”*
- **Stephen Kinnock MP** of Aberavon with Labour who told us *“This important initiative raises awareness and builds trust, and I fully support their proposal that Mental Health Education should be a mandatory part of the school curriculum, right across the UK.”*
- **Rachael Maskell MP** of York Central with Labour (Co-op) who told us *“One of the greatest challenges facing young people today concerns their mental health.”* and *“Placing mental health education on the school curriculum is an excellent initiative to support the wellbeing of children and young adults.”*
- **Lee Rowley MP** of North East Derbyshire with The Conservative Party.
- **Shabana Mahmood MP** of Birmingham Ladywood with Labour who told us *“I am proud to support the campaign by Mental Podcast to add mental health education to the school curriculum. If we are serious about getting parity of esteem between physical and mental health, then we must make sure we equip all of our young people with the knowledge and skills they need for their mental and emotional well being.”*
- **Preet Gill MP** of Birmingham Edgbaston with Labour who recorded a video message for us including *“whenever I visit schools in my constituency young people are constantly raising concerns about young people’s emotional health*

*and well-being and that's why I support this petition...there's no reason why it can't be part of PSHE."*

- **Norman Lamb MP** of North Norfolk with The Liberal Democrats who told us *"I wholeheartedly support the Mental Podcast campaign to make mental health education a mandatory part of the school curriculum. Schools have a vital role to play in supporting children to better understand, and take steps to look after, their mental health so that every child has a chance to flourish in life"*.
- **Richard Benyon MP** of Newbury with The Conservative Party.
- **Hywel Williams MP** of Plaid Cymru, a former mental health social worker, who told us *'It is so important that we understand how to protect and promote the wellbeing of all children and young people and that is why I'm pleased to support Mental Podcast with their campaign to break the stigma around mental health.'*
- **Lee Dargue** prospective MP in Birmingham Ladywood of The Liberal Democrats.

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## Charities

- **See Me Scotland** the anti stigma and discrimination charity.
- **Young Minds** who campaign for greater mental health in young people.

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## Campaigners/Influencers

- **Jonny Benjamin MBE** Mental health campaigner, writer, filmmaker & speaker.
- **Sarah Cardwell** Mental health blogger, campaigner and mum of two
- **Natasha Devon MBE** Mental health campaigner, speaker and writer
- **Hope Virgo** Writer and advocate mainly around eating disorders
- **The Counsellors Cafe** Online publication aimed at an audience of counsellors
- **Rev Mark Edwards MBE** Mental health writer and Reverend
- **Mind over Matter** Live music events to encourage discussion of mental health
- **Fiona Thomas** Non-fiction writer with Trigger Press and Metro
- **Eleanor Segall** Mental health and lifestyle writer at Metro
- **Honest Mum** Lifestyle blogger and author of 'Mumboss'
- **Ben Hart** Suicide prevention campaigner