



CSIE mailing – October 2011

Dear CSIE friends and allies

Greetings to you all and a particularly warm welcome to those who have recently joined the CSIE mailing list. This autumn 2011 mailing brings you news of recent developments relevant to inclusive education and information on CSIE activities. Please help spread the word by passing on relevant information to schools near you, and to other people who care about equality for all and the principled development of schools. Thank you.

Black History Month

Black History Month was launched at Wembley Stadium last weekend, on 1 and 2 October, and runs for the rest of this month in the UK (Black History Month/African History Month runs in February in USA and Canada.) It aims to:

- Promote knowledge of the Black History , Cultural and Heritage
- Disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society
- Heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people to their cultural heritage.

Mia Morris, founder of the Black History Month website which publicises the event, says: “In an ideal world, the month would not be necessary because educational establishments and the national curriculum would fully recognise and appreciate the contribution of black people throughout history.” She adds: “The black community uses the month as an opportunity to demonstrate pride in its creativity, respect for its intellectual prowess, and a celebration of its cultural identity which is far too often misrepresented when it is not being ignored in the mainstream.”

Black History 365 magazine attempts to get away from the established format of a single month, while some BHM organisers now present ‘black heritage seasons’, which begin in October but go on for much longer.

For more information see <http://www.black-history-month.co.uk/>

LGBT history month pre-launch event

Monday 21 November at The Kia Oval, Kennington, London SE11 5SS.

The all-day event will start with a series of Equality in Sports Practice sessions in the morning and be followed by a session mid-afternoon with Sports Minister Hugh Robertson.

LGBT History Month runs in February each year and celebrates the lives and achievements of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community. This year the focus will once again be on sport. For more information please see www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk or visit www.eventbrite.com/org/253875777?s=5374794 to register for the pre-launch event.

New inspection framework

Ofsted has published its plans for the new inspection framework, due to come into operation from January 2012 (subject to the passage of the Education Bill, currently going through Parliament.) The proposed new framework focuses on four key judgements: pupil achievement; quality of teaching; behaviour & safety; and leadership & management. In judging a school's overall effectiveness, inspectors will take account of these four key judgements, as well as how well the school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The focus on equality and diversity, emphasised in the previous inspection framework, seems to be considerably weaker. For more information please see the [Ofsted](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk) website.

CSIE welcomes the streamlined inspection framework, the clarity in the proposed key judgements, and the clear alignment and consistency across the new descriptors. CSIE also welcomes the greater freedom afforded to schools in the process of carrying out their self evaluation, and hopes more schools will use the revised [Index for inclusion](#) to support this process. At the same time, we remain significantly concerned at the message the proposed new framework seems to be conveying to schools, about the importance of equality and diversity. With the Equality Act 2010 placing new statutory duties on schools, it is all the more important for Ofsted to be seen to retain its focus on how schools are promoting equality and responding to diversity.

A UK Bill of Rights?

The Commission on a Bill of Rights, an independent Commission established by the Government in March of this year, has launched a discussion paper entitled “Do we need a UK Bill of Rights?” This is the first step in the Commission’s programme of public consultation.

The deadline for responses is 11 November 2011. For more information, or to respond to the consultation, please see the [Commission’s](#) web pages.

Other legislative activity

The Lords reconvened on 3 October and the Commons on 10 October. Look out on the [CSIE website](#) or our [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) accounts for news on the Education Bill, expected to be passed later this autumn, and developments on the Department for Education’s Green Paper “Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability”. You can see [CSIE’s response](#) to the Green Paper on our website.

CSIE training in autumn 2011

Will you put £45 towards addressing important equalities issues in your school? CSIE is running a series of workshops focusing on transgender and disability equality: “Hidden Voices: unseen identities and equality in schools”. Competitively priced (£45+vat including refreshments and materials), these are designed for people who want to do more than pay lip service to equality in schools. The workshop will run on 14 November in Bristol (The Park Centre, Daventry Road, BS4 1DQ) and the following week in London (venue to be confirmed). For more information please see the [CSIE website](#). Please contact the CSIE office (admin@csie.org.uk) if you would like us to run this workshop near you.

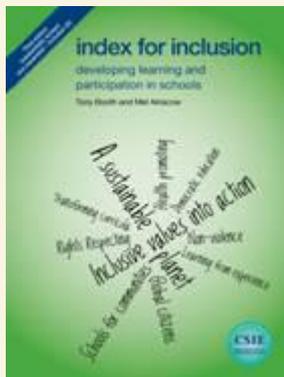
Participants at previous CSIE training events have said:

“All excellent - thought provoking, clear presentation, useful materials.”

“The whole session was very interactive and thus enjoyable, and doing different types of activities kept me focused.”

“Excellent – Presenters clear and deep knowledge of subject area – excellent materials to support.”

International resource for the principled development of schools



Will you part with £39.50 to get a new resource that supports your self evaluation and school improvement? The 3rd edition of the “Index for inclusion: developing learning and participation in schools” is now available, substantially revised and expanded. The Index is an accessible and practical resource for schools. Ten years after it was first published, it remains popular with education practitioners; it has been translated into 37 languages and is being used in more countries throughout the world.

The new edition makes explicit the values that underpin the Index, and invites schools to establish their own values and develop according to these. It also offers a clearer call for schools to integrate initiatives into one cohesive school development plan; it draws together interventions in education to do with environmental sustainability, global citizenship, healthy schools, democracy, values, rights and non-violence. A major new section sets out an alternative structuring of the curriculum for the 21st century, which is derived from the values presented in the Index and is relevant to all learners. It offers detailed suggestions for teaching and learning under a range of headings, including: food; water; housing and the built environment; communication and communication technology; and ethics, power and government.

The Index can help schools to:

- put their own framework of values into action
- carry out a thorough self evaluation of all aspects of school life
- create a detailed school improvement strategy
- sustain the changes that are made
- empower adults and children to voice their ideas
- improve the school for staff as well as children and families
- minimise barriers and mobilise resources
- make alliances to end intervention overload
- draw together work on community, global citizenship, sustainability, rights, health and values

- present to governors and inspectors a clear rationale for development

Staff in primary and secondary schools that have worked with the revised Index said:

“Thought provoking, incredibly useful, challenging document.”

“The index has a really positive impact on our work. It made us think more clearly about things we had assumed were in place.”

“It is a fantastic tool for sharpening your thoughts and focusing your efforts.”

The Index for inclusion is available from all major booksellers or directly from CSIE (<http://www.csie.org.uk/publications/current.shtml>). Purchasing directly from CSIE at the special rate of £39.50 (RRP £65) helps sustain the charity's efforts towards the development of inclusive education.

Keeping in touch and staying up to date with CSIE

Are there other types of training events you would like CSIE to put on? Can we help you get the most out of the Index for inclusion? Are there other publications or resources you would like us to produce? We are thinking, for example, of producing a short booklet responding to frequently asked questions on schooling for disabled children, LGBT pupils and pupils from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. Do get in touch and let us know your views, we want to hear from you! You can email us at admin@csie.org.uk or post on our [facebook](#) wall.

Thank you for your continued interest in CSIE, children's rights and inclusive education. Our next newsletter will be in early 2012. For more regular updates you can:

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Best wishes
From all of us at CSIE

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