

25 January 2005

## **PSHE 'ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS OF EDUCATION', SAYS LECTURER**

Teenagers are more likely to avoid getting pregnant, taking drugs or smoking if they are taught to make informed choices rather than being told to "Just say no". But the choices need to be rooted in values if they are not to be based on selfish views of "what's good for me", says Graham Haydon of the Institute of Education.

Welcoming today's Ofsted report on the poor state of personal, social and health education (PSHE) in secondary schools, Dr Haydon advocates giving the subject a much higher profile in schools.

In a booklet being released early next month, he argues that PSHE is the only subject that encourages children to think in informed and sensitive ways about the options open to them. It provides an important non-coercive way of influencing the ethical environment and educates children towards making responsible choices.

"PSHE is about helping young people to find their way in a world in which they face more conflicting pressures and more complex choices than ever before," he says. "Policy-makers and politicians must give PSHE the recognition it deserves, as one of the most important concerns that education can have."

*The importance of PSHE: A philosophical and policy perspective on Personal, Social and Health Education* by Dr Graham Haydon is published by the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain.