CitizED is an international higher education network that focuses on citizenship education. It develops resources for teachers and tutors involved in teacher training, runs conferences and, together with Children’s Identity and Citizenship in Europe Association (CiCea), produces a journal (*Citizenship Teaching and Learning*).

CitizED works with high profile educationalists in many countries. All those involved in teacher training for citizenship education in England (as well as many other professionals) are part of our network. The journal’s editorial board includes key figures from the USA, Australia, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa, many countries in Europe and elsewhere.

The following has been produced as a result of consultation across our national and international networks.

CitizED argues for the retention of citizenship education as a National Curriculum subject in key stages 3 and 4 (11 - 16 year olds). CitizED wishes to make citizenship education a National Curriculum subject at key stage 2 (7 - 11 year olds).

Citizenship education is a vitally important way of helping explicitly to develop responsible and active citizens who can make a positive contribution to our economy, communities and democratic society. No other subject does this.

There is overwhelming evidence to support citizenship education. Some of this evidence comes from within England. The last Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study (CELS), carried out by the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER), found that the young people in the study who were more likely to have positive attitudes towards civic and political participation had attended a school where citizenship education was delivered in a discrete slot in the timetable for over 45 minutes per week; developed by teachers who are delivering the citizenship curriculum rather than the school's PSHE coordinator; formally examined (e.g. through GCSE in Citizenship Studies); delivered regularly throughout the young people’s educational experience. This evidence is supported by Ofsted whose most recent report on the subject *Citizenship established? Citizenship in schools 2006/9*, “shows schools are making encouraging progress in establishing citizenship as a secure part of the curriculum, with just over half of the secondary schools visited judged good or outstanding for students’ achievement in their knowledge and learning”.

Citizenship education is an internationally recognised and respected subject. The recent IEA International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) shows that 20 out of 38 countries surveyed include a specific subject for civic or citizenship education in their national curricula. Finland, the country who tops the international comparison tables for reading and science in PISA 2009, also had the highest country civic knowledge scores (along with Denmark). The ICCS study found students with higher civic knowledge are more likely to participate in society.

Were England to remove citizenship education from the National Curriculum or to make it optional it would do so in the face of evidence that shows that it is making a
very positive contribution to young people and to the wider society. It would place
England beyond work being undertaken by many other countries.