

Guidance for using resources



Our aim is to empower you to educate your students and inspire them to have a conversation about organ and tissue donation with their families and friends. We have produced an information pack to give you the necessary knowledge and skills, so that you can confidently and successfully deliver these lessons.

1. Guidance on teaching a sensitive subject

This document includes suggestions and advice on how to create a safe learning environment for discussions and how to deal with difficult questions.

2. Organ and tissue donation FAQs

Questions on organ and tissue donation may come up throughout your lesson, so we have produced this short document covering some frequently asked questions for you to have to hand.

3. In-depth information on organ and tissue donation

The in-depth factual information document includes information on: which organs can be donated, who can become an organ donor and religious viewpoints. This document also includes information about blood and bone marrow donation.

4. Letter to parents

You may wish to let parents know that you will be covering organ and tissue donation within your lessons. Most parents encourage and welcome schools providing opportunities for students to talk about sensitive issues.

We have drafted a letter, which can be amended or adapted for your particular school, to reassure parents that the subject will be delivered appropriately and not as a means of recruiting students to join the NHS Organ Donor Register.

It also includes a link to the NHS Blood and Transplant website so that parents can find out more about organ and tissue donation.

5. Student take home sheet

This includes take home facts on organ and tissue donation to facilitate conversations at home.



An introduction to the lesson plans

There are three lesson plans (lesson plans 1, 2 and 3), each linking to the PSHE National Curriculum and consisting of distinctive parts including an introduction, student activities and a plenary.

The lessons have been developed with the aim of engaging students on the subject of organ and tissue donation through active listening, interactive activities, case studies and discussion.

The resources include corresponding PowerPoint slides – a visual aid to help students keep pace with the lesson, which can be used on screen while teaching or as a hand-out – and student activity sheets.

We hope to encourage them to reflect on their personal attitudes, feelings and thoughts on organ and tissue donation.

The lessons plans allow teachers to explore the subject in full and can each be delivered within a 45 to 60 minute lesson setting.

We have also produced one condensed summary lesson plan, for a single one-hour standalone lesson, for teachers with limited curriculum time or space within their timetable.

We would recommend referring to the 'FAQ' and 'In-depth information' documents beforehand, as these include more detail on organ and tissue donation.

Please also see the teacher guidance document offering support on how to teach a sensitive subject.

Lesson plan 1: An introduction to organ and tissue donation

This lesson aims to establish the subject of organ and tissue donation, and ascertain and build on any existing knowledge. The resources include corresponding PowerPoint slides and activity sheets.

Lesson plan 2: The life stories behind organ and tissue donation

This lesson aims to encourage students to empathise with real people who have been affected by organ and tissue donation, focussing on three different perspectives: Izzy Sewell, a 20-year-old woman waiting for a kidney. Charles Obadiaru, a 17-year-old young man, who received a kidney, and Ollie Storey, a 21-year-old man who received a cornea transplant. The resources include three short films depicting each of their stories plus corresponding PowerPoint slides and activity sheets.



Lesson plan 3: The gift of life – organ and tissue donation

This lesson aims to encourage students to empathise with real people who have been affected by organ and tissue donation. It focusses on Dawn Smith, a mother who decided to donate her 15-year-old son Harry-James Kirkham's organs when he died.

The resources include a short film depicting their story plus corresponding PowerPoint slides and activity sheets.

Condensed summary lesson plan: Organ and tissue donation stories

This is a standalone lesson that can be used when there is a limited amount of curriculum time available, focussing on real life experiences of organ and tissue donation from four different perspectives: a 20-year-old woman waiting for a kidney, a 17-year-old man who received a kidney transplant, a 21-year-old man who received a cornea transplant and the mother of a young donor.

Additional student activities

There are also some additional student activities should you wish to go beyond the classroom, including homework tasks and assemblies.

