

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS WORKING WITH PARENTS/FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY

Relationships, Sex and Health Education



STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Parental engagement and consultation

The statutory guidance declares that schools should engage regularly parents and work closely with them when developing and delivering RSE.

Schools must:

- Have a written policy for RSE and relationships education which is available to parents.
- Consult parents in developing and reviewing the policy.
- Clearly communicate parental rights for withdrawal (and good practice is “likely” to include the headteacher discussing with parents the benefits of sex education and the detrimental effects on children of withdrawal).

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

WHAT MUST SCHOOLS ENGAGE PARENTS ON?

From September 2020, the law requires primary schools to consult on their Relationships Education policy.

Engagement is a positive step.

Engagement means schools providing the opportunity for parents to feed in their views on the school's proposed Relationships Education policy, and includes considering whether any strongly held views of their parent body should lead the school to adapt when and how they approach certain topics with their pupils.



STARTING POINTS

- ❖ Nothing new – relationships covered through PSHE education
- ❖ Primary content is VERY different from the secondary content
- ❖ About inclusion and respecting others
- ❖ Clarify it is about understanding relationships not promoting them
- ❖ All religions will have respect for each other and loving each other at the foundation
- ❖ The broad process for engagement should involve the school providing clear information to all parents, in an accessible way



SEX EDUCATION

RSE has not had an impact on Sex education provision

Still not compulsory

DfE recommends that 'all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical maturity of schools'



Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers

SENSITIVE ISSUES

No parental veto – it is statutory

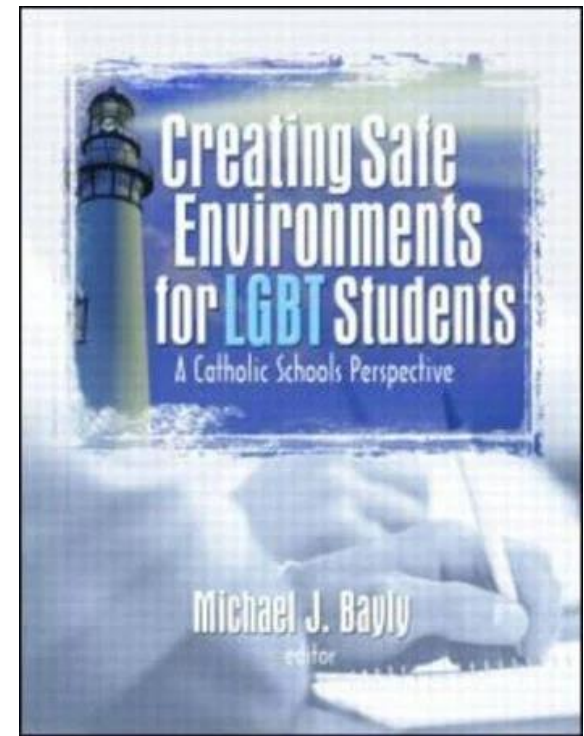
Faith communities – referencing LGBT

The Muslim Council of Britain is currently consulting concerned parents. It has said, “Numerous MCB affiliates and concerned parents have approached the Muslim Council of Britain expressing their concern and requesting guidance, on the apparent erosion of parental rights and the potential exposure of young children to graphic sexual images and concepts from a very young age”. Many Muslim teachers are also calling for clarity on what they may be expected to teach in Relationships & Sex Education classes.

Lessons will introduce information too early for the children

FAITH COMMUNITIES

- ❖ Most faith bodies have been supportive of the changes to RE/RSE
- ❖ The Catholic Education Service: “The content of the Government’s draft guidance is compatible with a Catholic approach to RSE.”
- ❖ Church of England “We welcome the fact that health education has been included in the statutory guidance and are confident that this will help inform and enrich RSE programmes of study as well as helping support pupils at a time when there are growing concerns about the rise in the number of pupils reporting mental health problems.”
- ❖ The Office of the Chief Rabbi has recently published a Guide for Orthodox Jewish schools on the welfare of LGBT+ pupils.
- ❖ The Jewish News has reported that Orthodox Jewish educators welcome the opt-out for parents in the Government’s proposed new guidance on sex-education in schools



ENGAGEMENT WITH PARENTS

- ❖ Use the established structures to connect with parents

DfE statutory guidance states: 'Parents should be given every opportunity to understand the purpose and content of Relationships Education and RSE. Good communication and opportunities for parents to understand and ask questions about the school's approach help increase confidence in the curriculum'.

- ❖ PSHE education is a partnership between schools and parents
- ❖ Reiterate that parents play a vital role with you in the school to educate their child so they deliver a balanced curriculum

Parentkind
Bringing together home & school



CASE STUDIES

Case study 1

Making changes to policies

Case study 2

Engagement with parents on Sex Education

Case study 3

Informing parents about the curriculum

Case study 4

Engaging with parents

SUCCESSFUL APPROACHES

- ❖ Communicating with parents about all of PSHE education from the moment their child starts at the school. This is more likely to lead to a positive view of the subject and an understanding of its breadth and content.
- ❖ Policy consultation – for example, involving parents in a working group, reviewing or establishing the RSE policy
- ❖ Parent surveys – establishing parents' current understanding of RSE, questions and concerns. This can be used to plan open evenings/information events/communications between school and home
- ❖ Open door policy – encouraging parents to come into school to meet with their child's teacher
- ❖ Information evenings – explaining what will be taught and sharing resources that will be used
- ❖ Providing advice on how to talk to children about relationships and sex at home
- ❖ Publishing your PSHE education curriculum on the school website
- ❖ Publishing FAQs on PSHE education, including RSE, on the school website

OPENING UP CONVERSATION

Stage 1

Engagement process should be information and briefing

Stage 2

Suitable method to gather parent views (written, online or face-to-face)

PSHE
Association



Relationships Education & RSE
guides to supporting parental engagement

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

If parents are concerned about their Relationships Education curriculum, or are unhappy with either the engagement process or its outcome.

Try first face-to-face with the parents who are concerned.

Next step school's complaint process

If concerned about disquiet to manage situation contact

- governors/ multi academy trust
- Local authority/regional schools commissioner
- their union

FINALLY

Sex education forum – parental engagement surveys

Bath University – Parental engagement toolkit

The Key - RSE: handling objections from parents

(members only)

Brettenham Primary school

[RSE - Parent Consultation | Brettenham Primary School \(primarysite.media\)](#)

PART 1: BE CLEAR ABOUT THE FACTS

Did you know that a change in the law means that all primary schools are required to teach Relationships Education and Health Education from September 2020?

Yes / No / Not sure

Did you know that all primary schools are recommended to teach sex education, and that parents continue to have the right to request that their child is excused from sex education?

Yes / No / Not sure

Do you have any questions about this?

The Government has produced a pair of factual guides to RSE for parents – one for primary, one for secondary and these are now available in English, Arabic, Somali and Urdu from gov.uk – [add a link to these in your parent communication.](#)

PART 2: QUESTIONS AT HOME

Has your child ever talked to you about something they learnt at school to do with growing up, sex or relationships?

Yes / No / Not sure

Add a comment in you wish

Did you know that many children want to learn about growing up from their parents and carers as well as from school?

Yes / No / Not sure

Add a comment in you wish

PART 3: HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Would you like more information about what our school teaches on relationships, health and sex education?

Yes, I would like to know more about...

No, not at the moment.

Do you want more support to help you talk to your child about relationships, health and sex issues at home?

Yes, I would like support with...

No, not at the moment.

PART 4: PLEASE GIVE US SOME

FEEDBACK ON HOW WE ARE DOING

Based on what you know about the relationships and sex education currently provided for children at the school how would you rate it overall?

Very good / Good / OK / Bad / Very bad

Can you explain why?

Based on your experience of how we communicate with parents and carers about relationships and sex education, how would you rate our communications with you?

Very good / Good / OK / Bad / Very bad

Can you explain why?

This survey is a first step in our schools' engagement on Relationships Education with you as parents. Your comments will help us understand your views and take these into consideration as we update our curriculum to meet the new requirements.

It is helpful to ascertain that all respondents to the survey are parents of children at your school. Asking parents to provide their name enables follow up.

Respondents should be reassured that the survey data will be treated confidentially.

Resources for today's session:

<https://www.tshubsfet.org.uk/page/?title=Free+primary+RSHE+webinar+September+2021+Support+for+schools+working+with+parents%2Ffamilies+and+the+community&pid=63>

frequently-asked-questions-by-parents PDF



Parental engagement questions - SEF PDF



Parental_engagement_on_relationships_education PDF



parental-engagement-toolkit PDF



PSHE Association Relationships Education - supporting parental engagement Primary (1) PDF



Relationships Education - supporting parental engagement Primary PDF



Relationships-Education-and-Relationships-and-Sex-Education-RE-RSE Parentkind PDF



RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents PDF



RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents_v3_ARABIC PDF



RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents_v3_SOmali PDF



RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents_v3_URdu PDF



The-Wellbeing-of-LGBT-Pupils-A-Guide-for-Orthodox-Jewish-Schools PDF



Relationships_Education__Relationships_and_Sex_Education__RSE__and_Health_Education PDF



More information

RSHE Hub Section

<https://www.tshubsfet.org.uk/page/?title=RSHE+Hub+%2D+Statutory+Training&pid=12>

www.tshubsfet.org.uk

Email: tshub@sfet.org.uk

Twitter: @SFET_TSHub

01252 986890

DfE Training Module Teaching_RSHE_to_pupils_with_SEND PPTX



PSHE Association Spotlight on SEND PPTX



RSHE NASEN Curriculum Webinar Resource Links PDF



PSHE education planning framework for pupils with SEND (key stages 1–4), July 2020 PDF



Faces of RSE Day PDF



PSHE Association



To support RSHE teaching to pupils with SEND

