

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

Subject Leader: Mr Dawson



Is it SRE or RSE?

- ▶ The term RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) is used by us and many schools & local authorities to reflect that the main focus/objective of the subject is relationships.
- ▶ In 2015 the Education Select Committee suggested a change from SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) to RSE. However the government did not make an amendment so government guidance uses SRE.
- ▶ “Sex and Relationships Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life; stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.” DfE July 2000

Legislation

- ▶ It is compulsory for all maintained schools to teach the parts of sex education that fall under National Curriculum Science which must be taught to all pupils of primary and secondary age e.g. the biological aspects of puberty and reproduction (Education Act 1996, National Curriculum 2014).
- ▶ Wellbeing - Schools have a legal duty to promote the well-being of their pupils (Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 38) and RSE contributes to this duty.
- ▶ Equality - Schools have a legal duty to promote equality (Equality Act 2010) and to combat bullying (which includes homophobic, sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying).

What will be covered?

There are four main topics...

Growing
up

Our
bodies

Keeping
safe

Relation-
ships and
family life

The main RSE themes...

Respect

Saying No

Differences

Puberty

Communicating

Solving problems

Emotions

Good and bad touch

Families and people who care for me

Empathy

Building self-esteem

Keeping safe

Friendships

What has to be covered?

- ▶ Families and people who care for me
- ▶ Caring friendships
- ▶ Respectful relationships
- ▶ Online relationships
- ▶ Being safe

Health Education

Physical health and mental wellbeing education will also become statutory in primary and high schools. These subject areas are split into 7 themes:

- ▶ Mental wellbeing
- ▶ Internet safety and harms
- ▶ Physical health and fitness
- ▶ Healthy eating
- ▶ Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- ▶ Health and prevention
- ▶ Changing adolescent body

Right to withdraw

- ▶ The themes mentioned are statutory and parents cannot withdraw their child from these lessons.
- ▶ Parents also cannot withdraw their child from aspects of RSE / relationships Education which are covered as part of the statutory science curriculum – for example, puberty.
- ▶ Where a maintained primary school chooses to teach aspects of sex education (which go beyond the national curriculum for science), the school must set this out in their policy and must allow parents a right to withdraw their children.
- ▶ The following are aspects of relationships and sex education determined by school that parents may choose to withdraw their children from –
 - ❑ Know key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body; including physical and emotional changes.
 - ❑ About menstrual well-being; including key facts about the menstrual cycle.
 - ❑ To know about human reproduction.
- ▶ Please note, if you choose for your child to be removed from one of these lessons, this does not mean that they can go home. They will be given alternative work to complete in a different classroom.

LGBT Inclusive Lessons

- ▶ The guidance states that schools should ensure that all of their teaching is sensitive and age appropriate in approach and content.
- ▶ At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT, they should ensure that this content is fully integrated into their curriculum rather than delivered as a stand-alone unit or lesson.
- ▶ Schools are free to determine how they do this, and the government expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum.
- ▶ LGBT inclusive lessons are covered as part of Relationships Education, therefore parents cannot withdraw their children from these lessons.
- ▶ We are currently working towards achieving our Stonewall School Champion Bronze Award which is a result of the work we have already completed.



Our curriculum

Reception	Year 1
Family and Friendship	Growing and Caring for Ourselves
Lesson 1: Caring Friendships Lesson 2: Being Kind Lesson 3: Families	Lesson 1: Different Friends Lesson 2: Growing and Changing Lesson 3: Families and Care
Year 2	Year 3
Differences	Valuing Difference and Keeping Safe
Lesson 1: Differences Lesson 2: Male and Female Animals Lesson 3: Naming Body Parts	Lesson 1: Body Differences Lesson 2: Personal Space Lesson 3: Help and Support
Year 4	Year 5
Growing Up	Puberty
Lesson 1: Changes Lesson 2: What is Puberty? Lesson 3: Healthy Relationships	Lesson 1: Talking about Puberty Lesson 2: The Reproductive System Lesson 3: Help and Support
Year 6	Year 5 / 6
Puberty, Relationships and Reproduction	Additional Lesson
Lesson 1: Puberty and Reproduction Lesson 2: Communication in Relationships Lesson 3: Families, Conception and Pregnancy Lesson 4: Online Relationships	Unit 1: Respect and Equality

FAQs: Relationships Education – RSE and Health Education (DFE Guidance)

Q: Will my child's school have to consult with me before teaching these subjects?

Schools will be required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE. These policies must be published online, and must be available to any individual free of charge. Schools should also ensure that, when they consult parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use.

Q: Will my child will be taught sex education at primary? This is too young.

We are not introducing compulsory sex education at primary school.

We are introducing Relationships Education at primary, to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will start with family and friends, how to treat each other with kindness, and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships.

Some primary schools choose to teach sex education (which goes beyond the existing national curriculum for science), and in those instances we recommend you discuss this with the school to understand what they propose to teach and how. If you continue to have concerns, you have an automatic right to withdraw your child from these lessons.

Q: Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?

Parents will have a right to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE, which unless there are exceptional circumstances, should be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary or secondary as we believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Q: Will teachers receive training before delivering these subjects?

The department is committed to supporting schools to deliver these subjects to a high standard. We know that training is a priority for teachers and we will be consulting with teachers, trade unions and other key stakeholders over the coming months on how we structure the training.

In addition, we will be encouraging schools to act as early adopters for this curriculum and to start teaching the subjects from September 2019. To help early adopter schools, we will provide further advice on how they can improve their practices. Lesson learned from the early adopters and best practice from schools will be shared with all schools from September 2020.

Q: Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?

A thorough engagement process, involving a public call for evidence and discussions with over 90 organisations, as well as the public consultation on the draft regulations and guidance, has informed the key decisions on these subjects. The consultation received over 11,000 responses from teachers, schools, expert organisations, young people and parents – these responses have helped finalise the statutory guidance as well as the regulations that have been laid and will be subject to parliamentary debates.

Q: Will these subjects promote LGBT relationships?

Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law.

Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT relationships during their school years. We expect secondary schools to include LGBT content and whilst there is no specific requirement to teach about LGBT in primary schools, they can cover LGBT content if they consider it age appropriate to do so. This would be delivered, for example, through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents.