



Relationships and Sex Education Consultation

From September 2020, relationships and sex education will become statutory in all secondary schools in England. As part of our work to ensure that we are meeting this requirement we would like to give you some information about what exactly we are expected to deliver to our pupils. We would also like to give you as parents and carers an opportunity to feed into this area of education to develop a shared set of values between the academy and parents and carers in this area.

What is changing?

From 2020, the following subjects will become compulsory in applicable schools in England.

- relationship and sex education in secondary schools
- health education in state funded secondary schools

These subjects will support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe, equipping them for life as an adult in British society.

Some parts of the new curriculum, as with the current curriculum, are compulsory. These are part of the national curriculum for science.

The Academy must publish policies for these subjects online and make them available to anyone free of charge. Schools should also share examples of resources, for example books and leaflets.

The new RSE requirements:

From September 2020, all schools with a secondary phase (including all-through and middle schools) will need to provide:

- **Relationships and sex education (RSE)**
- **Health education**

This is set out in the Department for Education's (DfE) [guidance](#), which it finalised following a consultation. This will replace the [current SRE guidance](#).

Changes to the right to withdraw:

Parents/ carers will have the right to withdraw their child from part or all the sex education delivered as part of RSE. When the new requirements come into place, parents/ carers can do this until 3 terms before their child turns 16. After that, it'll be the child's decision. Currently, the SRE guidance doesn't set any age limit for withdrawing a child from sex education.

If a pupil is withdrawn, it will be the Academy's responsibility to ensure they receive appropriate, purposeful education during the withdrawal period.

Parents cannot withdraw their child from the relationship education in RSE or health education.

Frequently asked questions:

Throughout the Government's engagement and development process of this new RSE curriculum, a number of wide-ranging concerns have been heard. To support you with understanding this change in your child's education some of the common misconceptions around the subjects are highlighted below.

Will my child's school have to engage 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, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered. Effective engagement gives the space and time for parents to input, ask questions, share concerns and for the school to decide the way forward. Schools will listen to parents' views, and then make a reasonable decision as to how they wish to proceed. When and how content is taught is ultimately a decision for the school, and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content.

school's policies for these subjects must be published online and must be available to any individual free of charge. Schools should also ensure that, when they engage parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use, for example, the books they will use in lessons.

Does the new Relationships Education and RSE curriculum take account of my faith?

The subjects are designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships and to thrive in modern Britain.

In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of pupils must be considered when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled. Schools with a religious character can build on the core required content by reflecting their beliefs in their teaching.

In developing these subjects, we have worked with several representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England. Several faith organisations produce teaching materials that schools can choose to use.

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

Parents will continue to have a right to request to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools 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 rather than be withdrawn, the school should decide for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

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.

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.

Will my child be taught about 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 to educate pupils about healthy relationships.

Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT content during their school years. Teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist can be done in a way that respects everyone. Secondary schools should cover LGBT content in their RSE teaching. 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.

What support will schools receive to deliver these subjects well?

The Government are investing in a central support package to help teachers introduce these subjects well and with confidence. This will include a new online service, featuring access to high-quality resources, innovative training materials, case studies and an implementation guide, available from Spring 2020.

There will also be training available for teachers through existing regional networks, offering opportunities to improve subject knowledge and build confidence. The Government are working with expert organisations, schools and teachers to develop this support.

Where can I find out more information about what will be taught in my child's school?

If you want to know more about what will be taught as part of the new subjects, the best thing to do is speak to us. We have also provided access to [parent guides](#), which explain what the subjects are, and parents' rights.

These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for successful adult life. The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum.

Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up. Your child's school will have the flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.