



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

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New guidance

- Was originally due to come into effect from September 2020 but implementation was delayed until summer term 2021 due to COVID.

The Dfe guidance includes:

- Relationships Education in primary schools
- Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools
- Health Education in primary and secondary schools.

Who is this guidance for?

All schools whether maintained or non-maintained including:

- ✓ Academies and free schools
- ✓ Non-maintained special schools
- ✓ Maintained special schools
- ✓ Alternative provision including PRUs Diocese and other faith representatives
- ✓ Reference for other LA staff.

Policy

Schools will by now have updated their policy to reflect the new guidance.

- Schools **must** consult with parents when developing and reviewing this policy.
- The DfE advises that schools should ensure that the policy meets the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community they serve.
- The DfE guidance clearly defines what should be included in this policy.

What has to be covered

Primary schools – relationships education

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

What has to be covered

Secondary schools- relationships and sex education

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

What has to be covered

Health education- primary and secondary

Physical health and mental wellbeing education is now statutory. These subject areas are split into 8 themes

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

What has to be covered

- The decision of how and when the statutory topics should be taught has been allocated to individual schools but the content is compulsory for all primary schools.
- These themes 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.

Religion and belief

A good understanding of pupils' faith backgrounds and positive relationships with school and local faith communities help to create a constructive context for the teaching of the subjects.

In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of all pupils must be taken into account when planning teaching, so that the topics that are included in the core content are appropriately handled.

Right to withdraw

Primary schools

- Sex Education is not statutory in primary schools. Many primary schools already choose to teach some aspects of sex education and will continue to do so, although it is not a requirement.
- 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 all schools should consult with parents on what is to be covered.
- Primary schools that choose to teach sex education must allow parents a right to withdraw their children. The guidance refers to this as granting an automatic right for parents to withdraw their child from sex education lessons

Right to withdraw

Secondary schools

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.

Schools are advised to meet with the parents individually to discuss why they wish to withdraw their children from sex education.

Once those discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, the school should respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16.

LGBT

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 programmes of study for this area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a stand-alone unit or lesson.

Schools are free to determine how they do this, and we expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum.

LGBT

Secondary schools:

Pupils should be taught the facts and the law about sex, sexuality, sexual health and gender identity in an age-appropriate and inclusive way.

All pupils should feel that the content is relevant to them and their developing sexuality. Sexual orientation and gender identity should be explored at a timely point and in a clear, sensitive and respectful manner.

Pupils should be well informed about the full range of perspectives and, within the law, should be well equipped to make decisions for themselves about how to live their own lives, whilst respecting the right of others to make their own decisions and hold their own beliefs.

Bolton schools

Schools have undertaken:

- Consultation with parents, staff, governors, pupils
- Engagement with wider school community
- Communications through school platforms
- Open door policy for individual concerns/queries

Overarching rationale from the DfE guidance.

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self efficacy.

These subjects represent a huge opportunity to help our children and young people develop.