



Q&A Relationship and Health Education in Primary Schools.

The Department for Education is introducing compulsory Relationships and Health Education in Primary Schools from this academic year 2020/2021.

Through these subjects, as in Religious Education, we want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe – we want to equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society.

Below, we have explained some of the common misconceptions around the subjects.

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

A: Our schools are making every effort to be open with parents when developing and reviewing PSHE Education, 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.

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

A: We are not introducing compulsory sex education at primary school. However, puberty must be taught in Primary Schools and taught before a child reaches puberty. We have decided that puberty will be taught at the start of year 5.

Q: Does the new Relationships Education curriculum take account of my faith?

A: 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 taken into account when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled. In developing these subjects, the DfE have worked with a number of 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.

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

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary or secondary as the government believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Q: Will my child be taught about LGBT relationships?

A: 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. 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, and at an age appropriate level.