

Government response to questions April 2019

[FAQs](#)

Will my child be taught sex education at Bridge Junior school?

- No. We are not introducing compulsory Sex Education at Bridge Junior school.
- We are introducing Relationships and Health Education (RHE), 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.

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

- Yes. The subjects are designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.
- The religious background of pupils has been taken into account when planning teaching, so that the topics will be appropriately delivered.
- In developing these subjects, the Government have worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England.

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

- No. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships and Health Education at primary or secondary school 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.

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 in Parliament.

Will these subjects promote LGBT relationships?

No, these subjects don't 'promote' anything, they educate.

- 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. RHE 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. **Primary schools are enabled and encouraged to cover LGBT content if they consider it age appropriate to do so, but there is no specific requirement for this.** This would be delivered, for example, through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents.

Some of the most important messages to be learnt from what we have seen on the media

Parents, carers and other adults in the community are entitled to:

- Accessible, accurate, up-to-date, information delivered in a way which meets their needs (needs to be repeated yearly)
- A safe and supportive environment for their children
- Information on how and when RSE is taught
- Understand their rights and responsibilities in relation to RSE policy and curriculum
- Be informed about issues of confidentiality and how it affects them and their children
- Have their views and ideas received in a respectful, non-judgemental manner.

Who do we want our children to become?

Emotionally literate

Effective communicators

Empathetic
Sympathetic
Compassionate
Kind
Honest

Resilient
perseverance

Tolerant
informed
respectful

RHE

Skilled at initiating and fostering positive relationships. Ability to recognise characteristics of healthy/unhealthy relationships

Confident, critical,
independent thinkers

Ability to keep themselves and others safe through an understanding and awareness of their rights; reporting procedures and the law.

Rationale: What do we want to achieve as a school?

The intended outcomes of our programme are that pupils will:

- know and understand the characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.
- understand they have a right to personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical touch. Recognise and know how to report abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse
- understand they have a responsibility to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect including when on line, permission seek and give and understand the concept of privacy
- develop the skills of being able to express their emotions and seek help where needed, to build friendship and recognise how this can support mental well being
- develop the personal attributes of honesty, integrity, courage, humility, kindness, generosity, trustworthiness and sense of justice, and character traits such as perseverance, working towards long term goals, dealing with setbacks, resilience permission seeking and giving, and the concept of personal privacy
- understand how the Equality Act 2010 relates to them as a child and through adult life, to recognise and challenge any form of discrimination

New guidance

- Comes into effect in September 2020
- Relationships Education in primary schools
- Relationships and Sex Education in high schools
- Health Education in primary and high schools.
- This guidance is for all primary schools.

However some of the Y5 and Y6 science curriculum form part of what is viewed as sex education - puberty and scientific parts of reproduction

What is the Equality Act (2010)

The Equality Act 2010 states that it is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage or civil partnership
- Pregnancy or maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex/gender
- Sexual orientation **(Government, 2010, p1)**

The public sector Equality Duty came into force on 5th April 2011 and requires that public bodies (including schools):

- Have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

(Government Equalities Office 2013, p1)

This makes it clear that promoting some of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act while ignoring others is against UK law.

We are teaching about equality.

- This means that if someone is black, we include them, we show respect and tolerance;
 - if someone uses a wheelchair, we include them, we show respect and tolerance;
 - if someone is gay, we include them, we show respect and tolerance;
- Ethos of everyone is welcome in our schools.

Our children will all have to interact with people from different backgrounds we want them to treat all members of the community with the same respect.

Just like racism school has a duty of care to challenge any language that may cause offence to others, whether used intentionally or not. Phrases such as “that’s so gay” or “that’s a girls/boys toy” when used in a negative manner may unintentionally cause offence to a child or adult.

School will challenge this language

Content proposed within the curriculum

Relationships	Health and mental well-being	<i>Other foci Living in the Wider World – Beyond DFE framework</i>
Families and people who care for me Caring friendship Respectful friendships Online Relationships Being Safe	Mental Well being Internet Safety and Harm Physical health and fitness Healthy Eating Drug, alcohol and tobacco Health and prevention Basic First Aid Changing Adolescent Body	<i>Economic Well being</i> <i>Enterprise</i> <i>Careers</i> <i>Not included in new statutory framework</i>

Relationships, Health Education, including Mental Health 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,

Right to withdraw:

- Sex Education is not statutory in primary schools and we will not be implementing this beyond the Science curriculum.

As such, parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the RHE provision.

