

Statutory RSE 2020 – what we know so far....

The bullet points below give an overview of key requirements for Relationships and Sex Education contained in the draft RSE Guidance. The government are currently responding to the public consultation with the final guidance expected to be published before July 2019.

- The legislation introduces three new statutory subjects: Relationships Education for primary; Relationships and Sex Education for secondary; and, Health Education for both. These subjects will be part of the basic school curriculum not the National Curriculum and will be statutory in **all** schools (statutory Health Education will not apply to independent schools).
- The new statutory subject of Health Education includes coverage of: mental wellbeing; internet safety and harms; physical health and fitness; healthy eating; drugs, alcohol and tobacco; health and prevention; basic first aid; and, changing adolescent body (ie. Puberty education).
- As previously, all schools must have a written policy for Relationships Education and RSE. When developing and reviewing the policy schools must consult with parents and carers and ensure it meets the needs of all. The views of teachers and pupils should be reflected in the policy.
- Sex Education for primary age pupils is not compulsory however it is recommended that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Any sex education to be delivered must be detailed in the school's policy.
- Parents will retain the right to withdraw their child from sex education at primary and secondary up until 3 terms before a child's 16th birthday when the child can choose to opt in. There will be no right to withdraw from Relationships Education. At secondary, head teachers should discuss with parents the benefits of their child receiving sex education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal may have before granting permission. At primary, head teachers will automatically grant a request to withdraw from sex education other than from the Science curriculum.
- It is recommended schools ensure that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender identities are included within Relationships Education and RSE content and teaching. It is up to schools to determine the specific content of their programmes.
- When planning Relationships Education and RSE all schools must take into account the religious background of pupils to ensure sensitive topics are handled appropriately. Faith schools can teach about distinct faith perspectives and teachings on relationships. All schools should reflect the law as it applies to relationships, so that young people gain a clear understanding of what the law does and does not allow.
- Schools should choose RSE resources that are appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils. These should be differentiated to meet the needs of children with special educational needs ensuring accessibility. Parents should be involved in consultation around resources to be used and be able to view them prior to sessions.
- RSE should be delivered in line with the Equalities Act and Public Sector Equality Duty to ensure those with protected characteristics do not face discrimination. Schools can take positive action to deal with disadvantages affecting a group because of a protected characteristic.

You can find the draft guidance here https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/supporting_documents/20170718_%20Draft%20guidance%20for%20consultation.pdf

Nottingham City Council's RSE Consultant provides free support and training for schools around RSE. Please contact catherine.kirk@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Central training opportunities for RSE can be found here: <http://www.nottinghamschools.org.uk/media/1170106/rse-programme-18-19-with-links.pdf>

RSE Day takes place on 27th June 2019 – follow @RSE_day on twitter for more info or look on the website <http://www.nottinghamschools.org.uk/teaching-and-learning-support/relationships-and-sex-education/rse-day-2019/>