**Frequently asked questions – parents**

Below are some commonly asked questions parents have about Relationships Education in primary schools. We have suggested answers some answers for each question, please adapt and edit these stock responses as needed for your school.

You will find a detailed explanation of running Relationships Education parent workshops on the EGfL.

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| **Question** | **Suggested response** |
| It is against my religion/culture/belief to learn about different families. | Everyone is entitled to their own belief, relation and culture. However, in our school we have a duty to ensure everyone feel welcome, this is our school ethos. Schools also have a duty to promote the protected characteristics, which include religion and belief but also include different families – no one protected characteristic is more important than another.  While your belief system may not recognise different families, our school does not teach to religious law, it teaches to British law and in English law families can look different.  You do not have to promote different relationships; however we expect everyone to be respectful and recognise that families will look different but love is at the heart of all families. |
| What if we don’t have different families in our school? | We do have different families in our school because all families will look different, some are big, small, live with extended family members, have one mum, have parents who live in different countries, have 2 dads etc.  All families are different, and we must be respectful that families are different. Regardless of what a family looks like, there are there to love you and take care of you. |
| How will you teach about different families? | See lesson plans resources and PowerPoints to support answering this question.  Staff training video 2 and parent workshop video 2 cover the lesson content in detail. |
| Why is all this changing? | Although our school has been teaching high quality PSHE for a number of years, the guidance we used to teach this subject was last written in 2000. This guidance was outdated and no longer met the needs of our pupils; therefore, this updated guidance was long overdue. The updated guidance changes very little of what we deliver in PSHE lessons, it just ensures all schools are covering the same materials and ensure consistency of curriculum. |
| Children are too young to learn this | Children are never too young to learn about respect. We must ensure respect is fostered at a young age. We do not teach about sexual or romantic relationships in primary school, we focus on families and people who take care of us while recognising that families can and do look different.  Children learn about puberty in year 4 because we know that children are going through puberty changes at this time.  Sex education is not statutory so if you do not want your child in this lesson in year 6 you can withdraw your child from this lesson. |
| What will you teach about gender? | Children learn about how boys and girls are different and the same. They also explore the stereotypes associated with boys and girls.  Gender identity is not part of the primary curriculum. |
| What videos/book will you use? | There are no videos of external books used in the Ealing Relationships Education lessons. |