

Statutory Relationships and Sex Education

Briefing

Health Improvement Team

Meet the Health Improvement team



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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.

Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is for all primary schools, including academies and faith based schools.

Policy:

- Schools will need to update their policy to reflect the new guidance. This should be done before September 2020
- Schools **must** consult with parents when developing this policy.
- The DfE advises that schools should ensure that the policy meets the needs of pupils and parent and reflects the community they serve.
- Schools can set up a working party to develop a policy, however this is not a requirement.
- The DfE draft guidance has defined what should be included in this policy.

Resources:

- The DfE have stated that schools can use and adapt resources and they will not be developing any statutory resources developed.
- Schools must ensure that the resources they choose to use are laid out in their policy and are appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils.

What has to be covered:

Primary schools:

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

What has to be covered:

High schools:

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

What has to be covered:

Health Education

Physical health and mental wellbeing education will now become statutory in primary and high schools. 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:

- 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,

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:

- **High 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 inclusive lessons

- **Primary schools:**
- The draft 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 inclusive lessons

- **High schools:**
- The draft guidance states that 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.
- The draft guidance also states that 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.

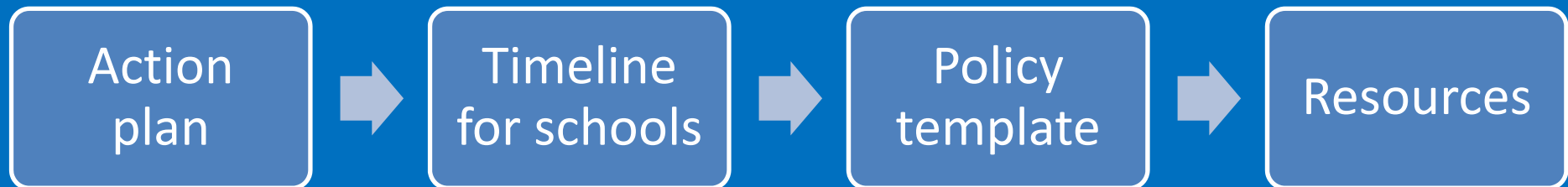
LGBT inclusive lessons

- LGBT inclusive lessons are covered as part of Relationships Education, therefore parents cannot withdraw their children from these lessons.
- Schools must consult parents when deciding what content will be covered as part of Relationships Education, including LGBT inclusive lessons.
- Parents cannot veto these lessons

What to do if a parent wants to withdraw their children from RSE lessons before 2020?

- As this guidance does not come into effect until September 2020, parents can withdraw their children from RSE lessons until this time as RSE is not currently statutory.
- It is recommended that schools follow their current RSE policy when dealing with requests to withdraw children from RSE lessons and continue to follow their current policy until they have developed a new policy (which meets the requirements set out in the new guidance) or until statutory Relationships Education come into effect in September 2020.

RSE working party



Best practice for schools to prepare:

During the 2019 – 2020 academic year it is advised that schools:

- Begin consulting key stakeholders (parents, staff, governors, pupils) on RSE
- Begin to develop a new RSE policy with consultation
- You may choose to set up an RSE working party to aid this process
- Run parent workshops in Spring Term
- Offer staff training
- Ensure all stakeholders understand that new guidance wont come into effect until 2020

The RSE toolkit on EGFL is a step by step guide which schools can follow to implement a whole school approach to RSE.

Support for schools from HI team:

Over the next academic year we will be:

- Setting up an RSE working party
- Developing a timeline and sample action plan for schools
- Developing policy guidance
- Developing resources
- Updating current schemes of work
- Running staff trainings/briefings
- Offering PAYG and bespoke work for schools

Resources

- Schools can access the draft guidance here:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781150/Draft_guidance_Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education2.pdf
- For any questions relating to RSE, please contact Claire Meade on meadec@ealing.gov.uk
- For support developing a whole school approach to RSE, schools are advised to use the RSE policy, which can be found here: <https://www.egfl.org.uk/elp-services/health-improvement-schools/hit-toolkits>



Q&A

THANK YOU

