

Q: Will my child's school still have to teach these subjects from September despite the recent disruption?

A: The subjects will be compulsory from September 2020. Schools that have met the requirements set out in the statutory guidance are encouraged to begin teaching the new curriculum from September 2020. Schools that are not ready to teach the subjects, or are unable to meet the requirements because of the challenging circumstances, should begin teaching the new curriculum by at least the start of the summer term 2021.

Q: Does the new Relationships Education and RSE 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 the religious background of pupils must be taken into account when planning teaching. Schools with a religious character can build on the core required content by reflecting their beliefs in their teaching. These subjects have been developed in collaboration 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: Will my child's school have to engage with me before teaching these subjects?

A: Schools are required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for RSE, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered. Schools will listen to parents' views, and then decide 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.

A school's policies for these subjects must be published online, and made available to any individual free of charge. Schools should also ensure that, when engaging with parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use, such as the books they will use in lessons.



PARENT FAQs:

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION (RSE)

Information & common misconceptions about the introduction of compulsory RSE from September 2020.



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

A: Parents continue to have a right to request to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which should be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen.

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

Q: Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?

A: 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.



There are also parent guides available in Somali, Arabic & Urdu, which explain parents' rights & subject details on the gov.uk website

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

A: Relationships Education is being introduced at primary, 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.

Many primary schools choose to teach sex education and it is recommend that they do so, tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of their pupils.



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. Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT content during their school years. Teaching children about their society and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist can be done in a way that respects everyone. Primary schools are strongly encouraged and enabled to cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families. Secondary schools should cover LGBT content in their RSE teaching. RSE 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.

Q: What support will schools receive to deliver these subjects well?

A: The government has invested in a central support package to help teachers introduce these subjects with confidence. Resources have been developed through working with expert organisations, schools and teachers to develop this support.