
Appendix 3

School Checklist (Primary) for Relationships (and Sex) Education School Policies

From September 2020 there will be a new requirement to teach Relationships Education in every primary school in England (with schools encouraged to teach the subject from September 2019). According to the guidance, “all schools must have in place a written policy for Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Schools must consult parents in developing and reviewing their policy. Schools should ensure that the policy meets the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community they serve.”

Therefore, schools are required to engage with parents and carers of primary years children as they prepare their written policy for the new syllabus. Here is a short checklist to help you understand what could be covered in the policy and what issues you can consider in its preparation.

- Your school is required to have written policies in place by September 2020. Decide when and how your school will be consulting with parents and carers.
 - Decide if your school is planning to use both/either parental surveys or parental meetings as part of the consultation and how you will encourage parents and carers to participate. [This can include asking parents which topics and in which years they think particular content should be taught.]
 - Decide if and how you will provide faith perspectives on these issues (and whether this needs to be included in your statement). If you are a religious-ethos school you may also wish to consider how your statement articulates that you will be teaching these specific religious perspective on these topics.

- Decide whether you will teach Sex Education (outside of the national curriculum in Science). Your school is not required to but the Government does recommend it.
 - If you will be, ensure that Sex Education is described in a written policy, including what will be taught and when. This Sex Education policy will also need to state that parents and carers have a right to withdraw their children from these lessons.

When drafting your school’s proposed Relationships Education policy, you may wish to consider:

- If you will be using particular pre-packaged curriculum(s) (and if so which), and how this will be communicated to parents and carers.
- What examples of content you are giving parents and carers and whether they give them a good idea of what will actually be taught. You might wish to include a question on this in any surveys you conduct.
- How do you propose to teach about different types of family and which different types of family (for example adoption, grandparents, single parents, same-sex couples etc.) you will be teaching about and at what ages. This will clearly depend on the particular needs and backgrounds of pupils, including individual cases, but developing a framework for this assessment may be helpful.
- What you will be teaching about boys and girls and male and female.
- Whether you consider it appropriate to teach about LGBT content and if so at what age? (Schools are not required to teach LGBT content in primary as part of Relationships (and Sex) Education but you are allowed to.)
 - If you don’t teach LGBT, consider and document why this is.
 - If you do, consider and document the reasons why and specifically what content this entails, and at what age?
 - You may also wish to consider whether any external organisations will be involved and why.
 - Decide how, as required by the guidance, your policy mentions that the religious background of all pupils is taken into account when planning teaching and how specifically you propose to do this (for example, parental surveys, internal school checks on the suitability of teaching etc).
 - Decide if you will use external providers for the delivery of some of these lessons.

- If you decide you will, state explicitly in your policy that parents will be notified beforehand about the name of the organisation and the specific content and topic that organisation will be teaching on.

- If your school is an independent, academy or free school (which are not required to follow the national curriculum) check at what stage the following issues covered in the national science curriculum are covered by the school (note: content in brackets indicates when these topics are covered in the national curriculum.)
 - Main external parts of the body (which parts) [KS 1&2]
 - Changes to human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) [KS1&2]
 - Reproduction in plants and animals (which can include humans) [KS 1&2]

The relationship between the school and parents and carers is vitally important. With this opportunity to engage with parents and carers on this crucial subject we pray there will be space to build a positive, supportive and encouraging rapport with children's families.