This is a step-by-step guide on how to exercise your parental rights regarding the NEW compulsory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Note: Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is to be replaced with RSE.

It is designed for PARENTS whose children attend SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Before contacting your child’s school:

You must approach the school with a view to creating a positive relationship and working with the staff in a collaborative manner. Ensure you approach the headteacher in a polite and constructive fashion. Refer to our resource ‘School Engagement Tips for Parents’ to find out how to interact with your child’s school effectively.

1. What to do if you have not made contact with your child’s school about RSE/SRE:

   >> If you have NOT contacted your child’s school about RSE/SRE, do so as a priority. Find out if the school is currently teaching RSE/SRE or plans to teach RSE before September 2020.

2. What to do if the school is currently teaching any aspect of RSE/SRE (before September 2020):

   >> If you have contacted your child’s school and know it is CURRENTLY TEACHING any aspect of RSE/SRE, take action:

   >> If the school is teaching any aspect of RSE/SRE, you can USE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHT TO WITHDRAW YOUR CHILD. You have the right to do so until September 2020. (Ensure you teach your child RSE/SRE out of school.)

3. What to do if the school is planning to teach any aspect of RSE/SRE (before September 2020):

   >> If you have contacted your child’s school and know it is PLANNING TO TEACH any aspect of RSE/SRE, take action:

   >> If the school is NOT teaching RSE/SRE but plans to do so before September 2020, you can USE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHT TO WITHDRAW YOUR CHILD. You have the right to do so until September 2020. (Ensure you teach your child RSE/SRE out of school.)
4. What to do if the school is currently NOT teaching RSE, nor planning to teach it before September 2020:

This means, the school has to make plans now to meet the Government’s deadline to teach RSE from 1st September 2020. RSE has two parts: Relationships Education and Sex Education.

Take the following actions:

**Relationships Education (compulsory)**

- Find out what measures are included in the school’s consultation process to enable you to be involved and develop the curriculum.
- Find out what topics the school plans to teach your child as part of RSE.
- Find out how the school plans to take into consideration your child’s religious background before deciding what to teach.
- Find out how many hours of RSE teaching your child will receive per week over the course of the year.
- Find out what resources they are thinking of using.
- Find out how the school plans to take into consideration your child’s religious background before deciding on what resource(s) to use.

**Sex Education (optional but conditional)**

- Find out what topics the school plans to teach your child as part of Sex Education.
- You can use your parental rights to make a request to the headteacher to withdraw your child from Sex Education indefinitely – it is your right.
- If the headteacher GRANTS YOUR REQUEST, then your child will not need to receive any sex education up until three school terms before his/her sixteenth birthday.
- **NOTE:** If your child is within the last three school terms before his/her sixteenth birthday, and wishes to receive sex education, the headteacher will give them permission, even against your (parents) wishes.
- If the headteacher does NOT GRANT YOUR REQUEST, find out the reasons for his/her decision.
- Find out what the appeals process is, make an appeal and make a re-request to the headteacher to withdraw your child from Sex Education indefinitely – it is your right.