

IslamicRSE - Parental Guidance

NEW SUBJECTS:

- Relationships Education (RE)
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Government legislation

In March 2017 the Government created three new compulsory subjects for schools in England. These subjects will be taught in all schools including academies, free, independent and faith schools, with no exception.

The three subjects are:

- Relationships Education (RE) for all primary schools.
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for all secondary schools.
- Health Education for all schools.

The implications

The new subjects will be implemented across England in all schools from September 2020. As a parent or guardian, you will not be allowed to withdraw your child(ren) from Relationships Education or Health Education. You will be allowed to withdraw your child(ren) from Sex Education in primary school. However, in secondary schools, you do not have an automatic right to withdraw your child(ren) from Sex Education. You will need to ask the headteacher for permission.

Parental rights removed

The responsibility to teach these sensitive subjects mainly lies with parents, not the Government, nor schools. Parents should have the right to educate their child(ren) about relationships, marriage and other related matters in a way they see fit – they know their child(ren) best. By making these subjects compulsory, the Government is dictating to parents what child(ren) should be taught about social and moral values. Effectively the Government has relegated the role of parents.

Parents are the primary educators of their child(ren) and their rights must not be taken away when RE and RSE come into schools in September 2020. The Government should not interfere with people's religious, cultural and spiritual values and practices. Parents must be allowed to educate their child(ren), in line with their religious principles.

Key issues

The Government has made these new RE and RSE subjects compulsory, stripping away parental rights to withdraw their child(ren). The new subjects intend to promote and emphasise same-sex relationships. The Draft Regulations and Guidance documents produced by the Government detail the proposals.

Primary school children

The subject RE focuses on issues, which only affect a very small proportion of the

Protect your child(ren)'s Islamic identity

population, and disregards traditional and religious values adhered to by the many.

Children must accept that families:

“sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children’s families are characterised by love and care for them.”

Children have to understand that traditional marriage, same-sex marriage and civil partnerships, represent:

“a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong.”

Secondary school children

The subject RSE offers alternative views of sexuality and presents modern lifestyle choices as equally valid as natural marriage. It does not focus on chastity, instead paves the way forward for a higher volume of promiscuity. Post-marital and extra-marital sex is accepted as a normal way of life.

Parental right to request withdrawal

The Government has taken away the right from parents to withdraw their child(ren) from the ‘sex education’ part of RSE. Also at the age of 15 pupils will be allowed to go against their parents’ wishes to receive sex education.

Without any parental knowledge or consent, child(ren) will be given information and advice on contraceptives and abortion services. Abortion is offered to children as an option during pregnancy.

Take action

→ ACTION POINT ONE

Demand the Government to give parents the right to withdraw their children from these subjects.

Ask your Masjids to take part in the ‘Parents Right’ campaign by sending **postcards** to the Department for Education (DfE).

Complete the **online petition** demanding the Government to mandate schools to consult parents regarding RE and RSE. Use link: <http://bit.ly/islamicrse-petition>



→ ACTION POINT TWO

Contact your child(ren)'s school to request that they involve you in any decision making process. **Contact us if you need guidance.** It's your parental right to withdraw your child(ren), if you wish to do so.

→ ACTION POINT THREE

As a parent, ensure you actively educate your child(ren) about **IslamicRSE**. We will provide support, training and resources to help you do this in a sensitive way and from within an Islamic framework. Give your child **IslamicRSE** education, focusing on traditional family relationships. Don't leave them exposed to non-traditional sex education.