

PARENTS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED

RE and RSE will be compulsory from September 2020. Do you know your rights?

Q1

Do schools need to teach about LGBT relationships and related content?

The Government states that “**there is no specific requirement**” for primary schools to teach LGBT content. If a school wishes to teach LGBT content, it must be done in an age-appropriate way, which can be difficult. In secondary schools, the Government expects schools to “include LGBT content.”

Q3

Does the Government encourage schools to teach these subjects early?

Yes, the Government encourages “schools to act as early adopters for this curriculum and to start teaching the subjects from September 2019.” Schools will need to inform parents about this. **Ask your child’s school if its an early adopter and discuss any concerns you may have.**

Q2

Will schools teach sex education in primary schools?

Schools are not required to teach sex education (apart from the existing national curriculum for science) in primary schools. Some schools may choose to teach it, however, “**you have an automatic right to withdraw your child from these lessons**”.

Q4

Can parents withdraw their children from Relationships and Sex Education?

With headteachers’ approval parents have the “**right to withdraw their child from sex education**” in secondary schools, up to 3 terms before the child turns 16. “At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education”, the school should make arrangements for this in one of the 3 terms before the child turns 16.”

Q5

Will schools need to consult parents before teaching RE or RSE?

The Government has mandated schools to consult parents. This consultation has to be meaningful and effective. This means you can share your concerns and state your philosophical/religious views. Schools will have to “provide examples of the resources they plan to use, for example the books they will use in lessons.” **Schools will have to “listen to parent’s views, and then make a reasonable decision as to how they wish to proceed”**. This is an opportunity for parents to engage with schools.

Q7

Will schools promote LGBT relationships in RE or RSE subjects?

“No, these subjects don’t ‘promote’ anything...” Schools must teach in an “age-appropriate” way, to meet the needs of pupils, in the context of the law.

Q6

Do schools have to take account of the faith of the child and parents?

All schools must “taken into account” “the **religious background of pupils**” when planning and teaching the subjects RE or RSE. The topics need to be “**appropriately handled**” by schools, taking into account the religious/faith background of pupils.

Q8

Can schools use teaching materials produced by faith organisations?

The Government has worked with faith organisations “representing all the major faith groups in England”. Schools can choose to use teaching materials produced by “faith organisations”. **Parents can request schools to use resources relevant to and consistent with their faith. Schools could consider inviting ‘faith experts’ to deliver aspects of RE and RSE subjects.** Parents can discuss this with schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>