



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION & RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE)

Currently (February, 2019) a subject known as Sex & Relationship Education (SRE) is taught in some UK schools; it is not compulsory.

HOWEVER, THE LAW IS CHANGING

- From 1st September, 2020, Relationship Education will be taught as **compulsory** in **all** primary schools across England (from Reception Class upwards).
- From 1st September, 2020, Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) will be taught as **compulsory** in **all** secondary schools across England.
- The government has produced **vague draft guidelines** (July 2018) on what must be taught. Relationship skills will be covered and LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender) concepts must be taught to all children as an integral part of the curriculum. Final guidelines should be available in **Spring 2019**.
- Schools must develop their own Relationship Education/RSE policy and curriculum and are **free to determine** how to teach Relationship Education/RSE issues. Schools are free to **choose whichever resources they decide upon**; however, the guidelines state these must be 'age-appropriate' and sensitive to the needs of the pupils.
- The draft guidelines clearly state that **schools must consult with parents** on the development of the Relationship Education/RSE policy and the curriculum.

WHAT DO PARENTS/CARERS NEED TO BE AWARE OF?

- **Parental rights are being increasingly eroded** – Relationship Education will be compulsory from September 2020, for all children from Reception Class upwards. It will be taught in all schools across England including faith schools. Parents cannot withdraw their children from these lessons.
- Schools are encouraged to **start teaching Relationship Education/RSE from now** and to provide a more 'comprehensive' curriculum than the minimum guidelines the government has set out.
- Schools can choose their own Relationship Education/RSE resources. **There is little monitoring of external agencies** and various Sex Education and LGBT+ organisations are providing advice, training and resources. Some are highly unsuitable and expose children to graphic sexual images and concepts. Many resources are not age-appropriate and clearly contravene government guidelines.
- The current situation means that the Sex Education and LGBT+ organisations can use Relationship Education/RSE as a route into schools to teach and **promote secular and liberal sexual ideologies**. In most cases parents will be **unable** to remove their children from these lessons.
- The Global Education Agenda 2030 is being pushed through the U.N as part of an international drive to make '**Comprehensive Sexuality Education**' (CSE) compulsory in all schools worldwide by 2030. Many international child experts state this is a **highly dangerous programme that sexualises children** through exposing them to explicit sexual graphics and concepts while promoting the teaching of sexual and gender ideologies both overtly and covertly. Some of the Sex Education organisations in the UK are basing their advice and resources to schools on this international curriculum. A very real danger exists that now and over the next 10 years Relationship Education/RSE will be used to introduce and teach CSE in our schools.



WHAT RIGHTS DO PARENTS HAVE?

According to the Government's Draft Relationship Education/RSE Guidelines (July 2018), schools are encouraged to actively engage with parents/carers in how this subject will be implemented in the school and **must afford the following rights:**

Right to withdraw

- Parents/Carers can remove their child from Relationship Education/RSE/SRE until 1st Sept 2020. After this date, Relationship Education is **compulsory for all children**.
- You have the right to remove your child from Sex Education (except what is taught in National Curriculum science) in primary schools, and at the Head teacher's discretion in secondary school.
- Three terms before a child turns 16, the child can choose to attend sex education classes against the wish of the parent.

Right to have a say

- Parents/Carers can become involved in the school's Relationship Education/RSE policy development.
- Parents/Carers have the **right to have a say** in how the subject will be taught and which resources will be used.

Right to know

- Parents/Carers have the **right to know** and see what will be taught to their child in Relationship Education/RSE and when it will be taught.
- Parents/Carers have the **right to ask the school any questions** they wish in regards to Relationship Education/RSE. They have the **right to request workshops** at the school to discuss their concerns.

Religious Rights

- Schools have been instructed that they **must consider the religious background** of children when teaching 'sensitive' issues.
- Faith schools can teach religious views on 'sensitive issues' but will have to demonstrate 'balanced debate' and adhere to the 2010 Equality Act.

N.B. Parents will need to be active in asserting and ensuring their rights as not all schools will inform them of their rights or voluntarily consult them on their plans for Relationship Education/RSE.

AS A PARENT OR CARER... WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

Become Proactive in Schools

- **Find out what your child is learning** in school! Download a template letter at www.StopRSE.com to send to your school.
- **Engage proactively and positively** with the school – get involved in the school community; join the Parents & Teachers Association (PTA); become a parent governor as they have a lot of influence!
- Approach the Head and ask for a meeting/workshop for parents to find out how they intend to teach/implement Relationship Education/RSE.
- **Get involved** in policy development and in choosing resources.
- If the school has already selected resources – ask to see them and ensure they are age-appropriate.
- Find out who is **training teachers** in how to deliver this subject.
- Ask for a meeting with the Chair of Governors if you still have concerns.
- **Remain vigilant!** Keep updated on any changes to legislation.

Strengthen your Relationship with your Child and Talk to them

- Take primary responsibility for your child's education.
- Prioritise quality time with your child and **learn to really 'listen'**.
- **Become the trusted voice and person** your child goes to for advice.
- Your child's faith education **starts and ends at home!**
- **Educate yourself** and prepare your child using your own faith perspective.

Support Each Other and Strengthen Community

- Parents/Carers should **support each other**.
- Local communities can **hold workshops to help support parents**.
- **Youth initiatives** are needed to help young people strengthen their faith identity as well as address the concerns they're struggling with.
- Weekend schools can include **faith perspectives** on these issues.

Campaign

- Create awareness by talking to friends and family.
- Sign the Government Petition calling for Government to **"Give Parents the Right to Opt their Child Out of RSE"** – link on www.StopRSE.com
- Write to your local MP – template letter available @ www.StopRSE.com

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STOP RSE

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