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Frequently Asked Questions about Relationships, Health and Sex Education

The Department for Education has announced changes to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. These changes came into effect in September 2020 and all schools are required to comply with the updated requirements, making Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education.

We believe RSE is important for our pupils and our school because:

- It is giving children the knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships
- It is about giving children the opportunity to put knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts.
- It is the recognition that everyone faces difficult situations in their lives and relationship, health and sex education can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

We view the partnership of home and school as vital in providing the context to complement and reinforce what pupils learn at home about healthy, respectful relationships. We will be focusing on family and friendships in all their contexts including online as well as teaching the children how to stay healthy.

Common questions

Will my child be taught sex and health education at Primary School?

Sex education at Primary school is not compulsory. However, compulsory **Relationships Education** was introduced in Primary schools from September 2020, to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will start with family and friends, how to treat each other with kindness, and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships.

At Wessex Gardens Primary School, we currently teach sex education to all children following the Christopher Winter's project (which goes beyond the existing national curriculum for science). Before these lessons take place, the school gives parents the opportunity to understand what will be taught and how it will be approached, and view any materials we use, so that you understand what we propose to teach and how. If you continue to have concerns, you have the right to withdraw from any sex education lessons that go beyond that of the science national curriculum.

In Y5 and Y6 we teach Health education which focuses on puberty and reproduction. As this forms part of the science curriculum for Y5 and Y6 it is compulsory. We hold meetings with parents in Y5 and Y6 to discuss this and share materials. You have the right to withdraw from any sex education lessons that go beyond that of the science national curriculum.



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Is school the best place for discussions about Sex and Relationships?

We know from surveys of children that if they do not get the correct and accurate information about sex and relationships from a reliable source, they will find the information from other sources (friends, older siblings, website, tv) which may not be true or age appropriate. The information gathered during the Government consultation found that most children wanted this information and discussion to be provided in school with their teachers so that they could ask their questions in a safe space, and have them answered in an age-appropriate way.

Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships, Health and Sex Education?

In a Primary School, you have the right to withdraw from any sex education lessons that **go beyond that of the science national curriculum**. There is **no** right to withdraw from Relationships Education at Primary as the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Will we teach about LGBT+ relationships?

We are teaching about equality. Our school ethos says that we are respectful of everyone. We value ourselves and all others. Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference and to educate pupils about healthy relationships. Relationship, health and sex education should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law.

In our school the teaching of LGBT+ will be delivered through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents. All our planned learning will be taught in an age appropriate way.

Are primary children too young to be taught about LGBT+ relationships?

Some children grow up in families with LGBT+ parents. We want all of our children to know that every family is welcomed and accepted in school. Our children will interact with people from different backgrounds we want them to treat all members of the community with the same respect.

How will we know what is being taught so I can talk to my child about it at home?

Parents will be given opportunities to attend different meetings to understand how the curriculum is being planned to be taught. As the curriculum planning develops, parents will have the opportunity to look at materials that will be used. At the beginning of each year, there will be an opportunity to discuss with the class teacher the year's curriculum. Each term parents will have access via the school website, which will summarise what is being taught. If you need to discuss this further, teachers will be happy to discuss this with you or signpost other resources that can be used at home to support discussions.