

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

Consultation with our School Community



New Guidance

- 20 years since the last review of the curriculum- the world (and how we interact with each other) has changed
- New: Relationships Education in Primary Schools
- Previous recommendations for teaching Personal, Social, Health Education, are now part of the National Curriculum.
- Sex Education in Primary Schools remains **optional**, though in Year 5 & 6 the science curriculum form part of what might be considered as sex education (puberty and reproduction).

SCIENCE CURRICULUM

As part of the Science curriculum, we teach the following statutory objectives that build understanding about growth and reproduction:

Year One

Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.

Year Two

Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults -they should not be expected to understand how reproduction occurs.

Year Five and Year Six

Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty

Where and how did you learn about sex and relationships? For young people, their learning comes from...

Mobile phones



TV



Internet



School



Friends & Older Siblings



Parents & Carers



Why is Relationships and Sex Education important?

- Entitlement
 - Puberty is starting earlier- for some children by age 9
 - Unwanted conceptions
 - Sexually transmitted infections
 - Safeguarding
 - Grooming
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Abuse
 - Sexting
 - Online pornography
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What is effective Relationships & Sex Education (SRE)?

- Age appropriate
- Based on needs of pupil (see later slides)
- Progressive
- Inclusive
- Delivered by trained staff in a safe environment
- Prepares children adequately for puberty in a timely way
- Prepares children for adult life
- Promotes positive relationships

Ofsted review of existing RSE nationally

- Required improved in over a third of schools was not systematic enough
- Children were not adequately prepared for puberty
- In Primary Schools, too much emphasis was placed on friendships and relationships

Your rights as a parent:

- To be informed of the RSE curriculum and policy
- To be consulted about changes to these
- To withdraw your child from Sex education lessons (that are outside of/ additional to the Science National Curriculum. The Science National Curriculum is statutory)

Recommendations for Changes/ Schools:

- Introduce children to the correct scientific terms to describe body parts in Key Stage 1
- Challenge the use of 'gay' as an insult and include work around the makeup of different families
- Explore/ challenge gender roles/ stereotypes
- Begin to explore puberty changes by the age of 8/9
- Deliver RSE in a progressive way across the school
- Ensure that children in Year 5 and 6 receive RSE input around puberty so that they are prepared as soon as possible for the onset of puberty
- For some sessions on Sex Education consider single gender sessions

Summary

- Parents have the right to withdraw children from Sex Education lessons at Primary School that go **beyond** the content in the Science National Curriculum.
- Topics covered related and linked to the Science Curriculum are statutory and not optional to teach. This is as follows:
 - In Key Stage 1, children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They should be introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth but not how reproduction occurs.
 - In Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5/6), children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including reproduction. They also learn about the change that happen in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning about what happens in puberty.
- Schools have the right and obligation to teach RSE topic to prepare children for life when they leave school.
- The curriculum on Relationships and Sex Education should complement, and be supported by, the school's wider policies on Behaviour, bullying and safeguarding (PSHE; E-Safety, Relationships etc).

Next Steps:

- Please look at the materials on the school website:
<https://harringtonhill.hackney.sch.uk/parents/rse-parent-consultation/>
- Please respond to the survey:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ToH1EWHgmUGet9P-Dv1ZwylUXM3JNdJlsUg2422P_VNUNkc0U1pCRkxBNVIQQk1TMjlMV0xKT1VZMy4u

We are particularly interested in your views about when to tackle different concepts and any areas you might like further support with at home.

I am aware that there will be differences of opinion, but we will take your views into account when we finalise our policy and curriculum plan. We will share this with you later this year.