

Safe at School bulletin

News and information for parents

Autumn 2020

RSE delayed until April 2021: time to hold a parental consultation

The Department for Education is delaying the full implementation of Relationships Education in primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in secondary schools in England, until April 2021, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Although compulsory RSE still comes into effect as scheduled this September, schools have been given flexibility until the start of the summer term 2021 about when to begin delivering their full curriculum. Safe at School is urging parents to take advantage of this reprieve to call on their child's school to hold a proper consultation.

Dr Tom Rogers of Safe at School said: "Now is the time for parents to call on their child's school to hold a consultation. Parents should not have any form of Relationships Education or RSE foisted upon their



children without being properly consulted. This is particularly important as, from September 2020, parents no longer have an automatic right to withdraw their children from either Relationships Education or RSE."

"We are hearing from parents that some schools are merely presenting parents with a policy and a curriculum for these new compulsory subjects and counting this as a consultation. This approach is completely inadequate and amounts to a slap in the face to parents," said Dr Rogers.

Dr Rogers continued: "A proper consultation should result in schools truly respecting families which, for instance, do not want their children to be exposed to teaching on same-sex relationships in the classroom. This must be accurately reflected in the policy and the teaching materials used in the school."

See inside for more on a school consultation on Relationships Education and RSE.

SPUC supports legal challenge on parents' rights

SPUC is supporting a legal challenge by the group *Let Kids Be Kids Coalition*, which seeks to reinstate the absolute right of parents to withdraw their children from Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in secondary schools in England and Relationships Education in primary schools in England.

Antonia Tully of Safe at School said: "Safe at School has consistently stated that compulsory RSE undermines the fundamental rights of parents to bring up their children in line with their own values and to protect them from inappropriate and unacceptable classroom teaching."

Let Kids Be Kids also says that the statutory guidance for schools issued by the Department for Education

is misleading because it includes LGBT content in teaching Relationship Education. The group asserts that this goes further than Parliament intended, and that the court has the power to rectify errors on law made in departmental guidance.

Let Kids Be Kids states that the current guidance on teaching Relationships Education and RSE risks interfering in family life contrary to Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights (incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998). The group says: "By ignoring the views of parents on matters which concern deeply held religious or philosophical views, schools risk educating children in ways that will unnecessarily create serious tensions between children and their parents or between parents and the school."



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Scotland 2021: all schools to teach LGBT curriculum



All state-funded schools in Scotland will be obliged to teach “LGBTQ history” in schools from 2021. Scottish Ministers accepted recommendations to deliver an LGBT inclusive education across the curriculum in 2018.

Antonia Tully of SPUC Safe at School said: “Schools in Scotland will become hotbeds of homosexual propaganda. Children will be indoctrinated and parents will be left feeling helpless to bring up their children in line with their own values.”

“I encourage parents and teachers to contact Safe at School for support and advice on how to resist this measure,” said Mrs Tully.

See Safe at School contact details on back page.

LGBT inclusive teaching in primary schools

Stonewall, a homosexual pressure group, has teamed up with leading academic publisher Pearson, to produce LGBT inclusive, cross-curricular teaching resources for primary schools. All the following quotations are taken from <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/creating-lgbt-inclusive-primary-curriculum>

Key stage 1 (age 5-7 years) – How to teach English with an LGBT focus

“Remember to teach children that ‘they’, ‘them’ and ‘their’ can be singular as well as plural. You could use it as an opportunity to learn that a lot of non-binary people prefer not to be referred to as ‘he’ or ‘she’.”

“Read picture books about LGBT families (such as ‘And Tango Makes Three’, ‘Donovan’s Big Day’) and discuss the idea of different families. Create artwork or family trees to celebrate children’s different families.”



Key stage 2 (age 7-11 years) – LGBT maths

“Jay saves £10 in their money box. All of their money is in coins. What possible combinations of coins could they have?”

“Laura builds a tree house with her mums. The perimeter of Laura’s tree house is 12m. What could the area be?”

Key stage 2 – Advice on teaching LGBT science

“You’d be surprised at the opportunities for LGBT inclusion in your science lessons. From using LGBT role models as a stimulus for your topic on flight to using scientific skills to explore a problem for a same sex couple, there are plenty of ideas to get you started.”

Key stage 2 – Suggestions for LGBT RE lessons

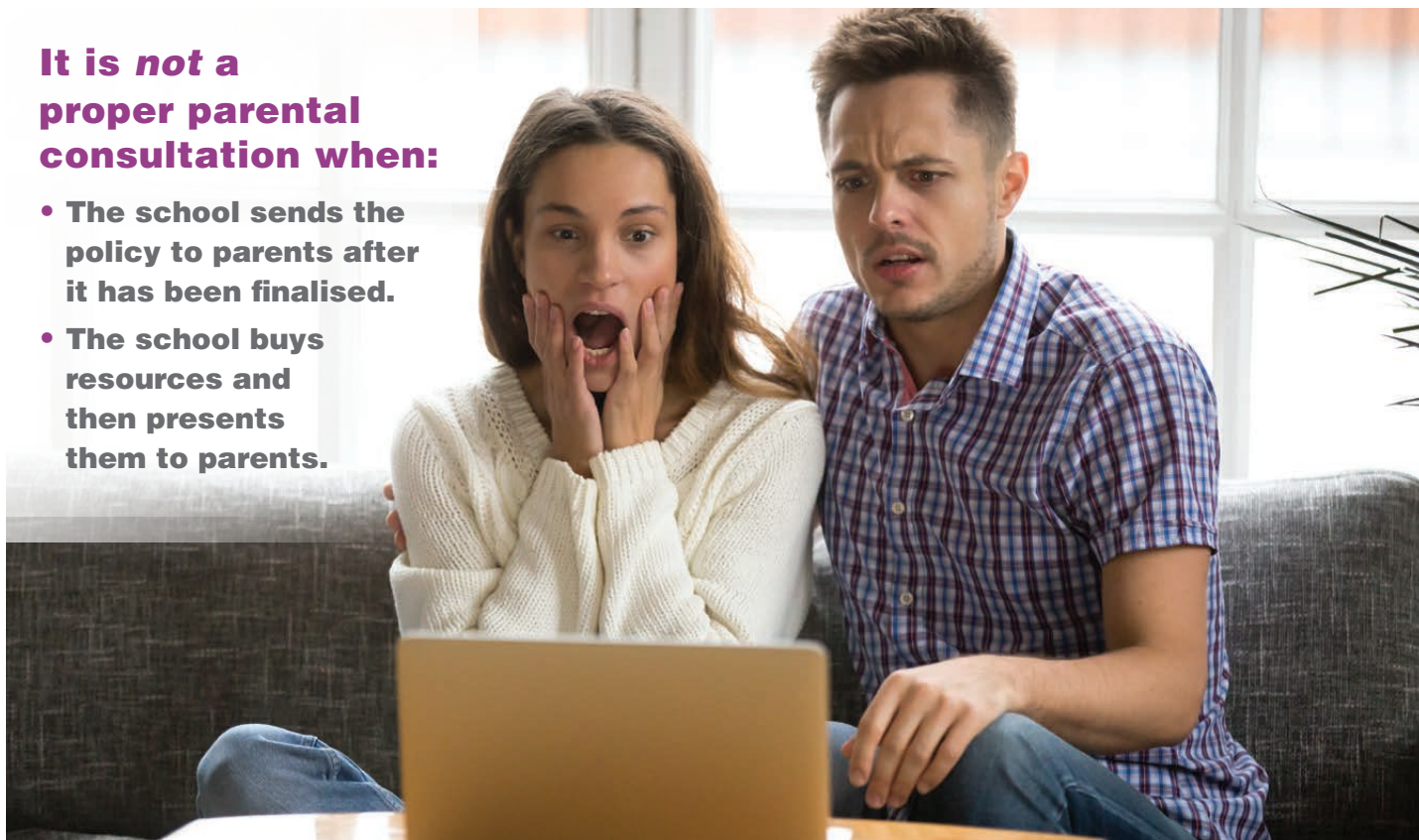
“As part of learning about families, weddings and traditions, read ‘King and King’. Discuss that King and King had a church wedding or blessing, in line with Christian traditions.”

Consulting parents on developing a policy for Relationships Education or RSE

The statutory guidance for schools in England states: “All schools must have in place a written policy for Relationships Education and RSE. Schools must consult parents in developing and reviewing their policy. Schools should ensure that the policy meets the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community they serve.”¹

It is **not** a proper parental consultation when:

- The school sends the policy to parents after it has been finalised.
- The school buys resources and then presents them to parents.



Top tips on holding a parental consultation

When conducting a consultation on the Relationships Education / RSE policy with parents, the school should:

- Invite every parent to participate in the consultation.
- Make sure that the policy is easily available to every parent, in translation if necessary.
- Show all the proposed resources to parents in an accessible way, either online or at a meeting conveniently timed for parents.
- Fully address and resolve any concerns raised by parents.

When invited to take part in a consultation on Relationships Education or RSE, parents should:

- Take seriously their duty to contribute to the consultation on a subject which profoundly affects their child, and encourage and support other parents in participating.
- Study the policy carefully for any gaps which could enable a teacher to introduce inappropriate or unacceptable materials or teaching.
- Take the time to look at the proposed resources, express any concerns and recommend other resources if necessary.
- Take expert advice from Safe at School or another group such as Parent Power or SREIslamic.
- Give their feedback on the policy and resources to the school in a polite and calm manner.
- Ask for further discussion on any matters of concern.

¹ Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers, p. 11, Department for Education, 2019

Relationships Matter: a new resource for primary schools

A new, free, online resource for teaching Relationships Education in primary schools, *Relationships Matter* is available from Lovewise.

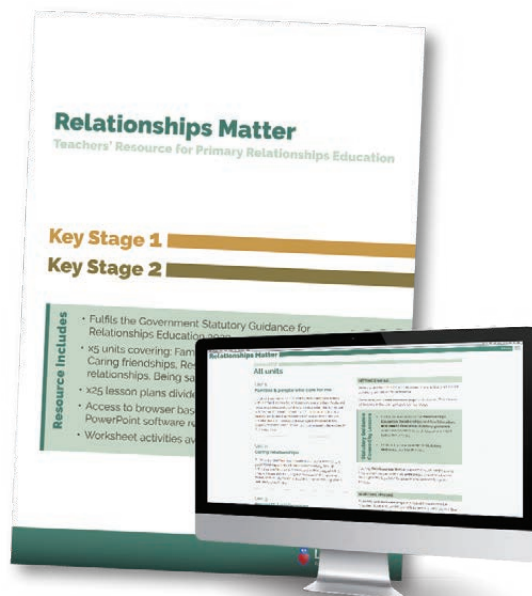


Lovewise

For the best in relationships

Antonia Tully of SPUC Safe at School said: "This is a wonderful resource for delivering the new compulsory subject, Relationship Education, in primary schools. Lovewise produces materials for schools with a Christian perspective and this new programme is fully compliant with Government's statutory requirements.

"You can look at the *Relationships Matters* resource online for free, by going to lovewise.org.uk I encourage parents and teachers to take a look at this resource and introduce it to schools with a Christian faith ethos."



Relationships Matter covers the five units required by the Government's guidance:

1. Families and people who care for me
2. Caring friendships
3. Respectful relationships
4. Online relationships
5. Being safe

There are 25 lessons across the five units and the programme includes teachers' notes, a slideshow and downloadable worksheets.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE SAFE AT SCHOOL CAMPAIGN!

For further information and to sign up for our email updates please visit www.safeatschool.org.uk. You can also write to us at Safe at School, SPUC, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London, SE11 4AB. Or email us at info@safeatschool.org.uk. For confidential support / advice on RSE in your child's school please call: 020 8407 3463

REPLY FORM

- ☐ Please send me more copies of this bulletin to distribute to others ☐ 2 ☐ 5 ☐ 10 Other quantity _____
- ☐ Please add my email address to the special Safe at School email list to get updates on RSE matters.

Email: _____

Title: _____ Full name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone (include only if you are happy to be contacted by phone): _____

Please return this form to SPUC, Unit B, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London SE11 4AB.