



Sex education: A role for parents

Parents should take the lead in educating their own young children about sexual matters. This is a role for them, not for schools. Primary schools can support families, but only parents can judge when their child is ready to hear about these things.

Many parents are undermined by the message from schools and the media that children should be taught about sex by professionals. Parents should have the confidence that they are the best people to give their own children sensitive information about sex.



In fact, government guidelines on sex and relationships education seem to recognise the crucial role of parents. Yet this is often not reflected in what happens in the classroom.

The Department for Education guidelines produced in July 2000 make no fewer than 91 references to the role of parents. The emphasis is on schools consulting with parents about the nature and content of sex education. Parents should insist that the school leaves the intimate aspects of sex for them to cover at home with their own children.

Action for parents: Find out what sex and relationships education programme is being used in your child's school. Ask to see the resource to find out whether the intimate details of sex will be given. Let the school know that you would like to cover these issues with your child. For help and support please contact: Safe at School on 020 8407 3463.

"Vulgar, dirty" sex education spoils my school days

Abbie Ireland is 26 years old and has spoken out at the way in which the sex education she received at her Catholic secondary school cast a shadow over her otherwise happy school days.

"It was so horrible," she says now. "I was told about sex in such a vulgar, dirty way. I already knew about how babies were made. I didn't want to hear all these details about how to do a 'hand job' or a 'blow job' in a mixed classroom. It made sex seem so negative to me."

Fortunately Abbie was able to talk to her parents and her mother withdrew her from many of the classes.

Abbie is now a mother herself and is determined to protect her son. She feels confident about answering her child's questions in a natural way when they arise.

"My innocence was taken from me by those sex education lessons," says Abbie. "That's something which never comes back."



POSED BY MODEL

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is committed to fighting against explicit SRE in schools because it is inciting young children to become sexually active in their teens, or even before. Illegal, underage sexual activity fuels teenage pregnancies, rising rates of sexually transmitted infections and the tragedy of teenage abortions.

Take action today

- Let the government know your views and experience of SRE by responding to the Department of Education's consultation. See page 3.
 - Please send me copies of SPUC's free briefing on the consultation
- Alert other parents to the dangers of anti-life sex education in schools
 - Please send me further copies of this bulletin
 - 5 15 25 other
- Organise a seminar or public meeting in your area to inform other parents
 - I would like to organise a meeting or seminar and will call Safe at School on 020 8407 3463

Please print
 Title _____ Full name _____
 Address _____

 _____ Postcode _____
 *Phone _____
 *Email _____

I would like to support SPUC. Please send me details of how I can: Become a member Make a donation

*Please include these if you are happy to be contacted by phone/email

Programmes which provoke premature sex

Department of Health sex ed programme tripled teen pregnancies



Teaching teenagers about sex does not stop them becoming pregnant. In fact the evidence shows the opposite. One

example of this was the Young People's Development Programme (YPDP), which aimed to teach young people aged 13-15 about sex in the hope that fewer pregnancies would result. The result of this programme was a shocking increase in the number of girls becoming pregnant.

The YPDP took place from April 2004 until March 2007 and was funded by the Department of Health. The initiative took place in youth clubs rather than schools. This was because the teenagers involved were identified by teachers and social workers as difficult and would not be at school regularly.

Twenty-seven youth clubs were selected for the programme. The researchers selected 27 other clubs for comparison. The teenagers at the YPDP clubs were taught about sex and drugs by youth workers using a variety of activities and styles.

The programme was highly rated. The teenagers loved the activities and the staff liked the relationships they built with the teenagers.

But the results were disastrous. This programme led to 3.5 times as many pregnancies in the targeted groups as in the comparison youth clubs. Indeed so devastating were the final results that the researchers recommended that no such programme should be used again, except as part of a research project.

This publicly funded project was developed by the Department of Health in conjunction with the fpa (Family Planning Association) and carried out to the highest research standards. The report was published in 2009 and published in the British Medical Journal..

Wiggins M, Bonell C et al, Health outcomes of youth development programme in England: prospective matched comparison study. BMJ 2009; 339:b2534

The Christopher Winter Project – teaching children how to have sex

Year 1 (ages 5-6): children are shown pictures of naked babies to teach them about male and female genitalia. They learn the names 'penis' and 'vagina'.

Year 2 (ages 6-7): teachers give a lesson on challenging gender stereotypes. Children are given cards with cartoon body parts ranging from "foot" to "penis"; the aim of the lesson is "to focus on sexual difference and to name body parts".

Year 3 (ages 7-8): children learn from their teachers that "there are different kinds of families and all are equally valid".

Year 4 (ages 8-9): children return to learning about body parts in lessons on babies.

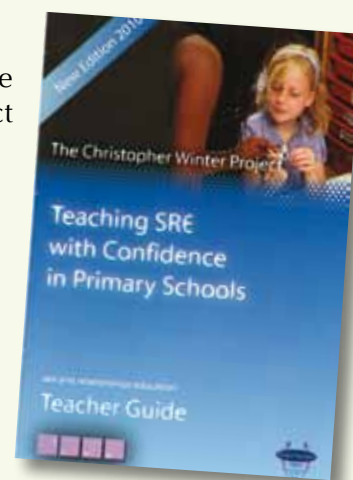
Year 5 (ages 9-10): teachers tell children that masturbation is a perfectly normal way to explore their bodies. Discussion of sexual attraction includes same-sex attraction as well as heterosexual.

Year 6 (ages 10-11): children are given cartoon pictures of sexual intercourse. Children learn that "...the man's penis gets stiff and the woman's vagina gets slippery ...It should feel nice."

The Christopher Winter Project takes a step by step approach to prepare children for having sex. This is very similar to the sex education teaching resource for primary schools called "Living and Growing", which is produced by Channel 4.

This is not surprising as the Christopher Winter Project makes extensive use of the most sexually explicit sections of the DVDs from the "Living and Growing" programme.

Safe at School has campaigned vigorously to expose "Living and Growing". Parents should oppose the Christopher Winter Project programme with equal force.



Action point:

Parents: Find out if the Christopher Winter Project is being used in your child's primary school. Voice your concerns to the headteacher and the governing body of the school. Please call Safe at School for advice and support on 020 8407 3463.

Let the government know your views on sex education

Sex Education: How can you respond to the Department of Education's consultation



The Department of Education is carrying out an internal review on personal, social, health and economics (PSHE) education. PSHE is the part of the school curriculum in which sex and relationships education (SRE) is taught.

Despite repeated statements from the government that they have no plans to make PSHE compulsory, they are

nonetheless carrying out this review.

The Department is open to receiving evidence with regard to the teaching of PSHE and its effects, including SRE. SPUC is encouraging parents to respond to this and is preparing a briefing document to help people.

The closing date for submissions is 30 November 2011.

Action point:

Contact SPUC to order a free copy of the PSHE Consultation briefing. Please use the order form on the front of this bulletin.

No evidence that compulsory sex ed for young children will combat HIV and AIDS

A leading UK expert on sexual health issues for young people has said that there is no evidence to support the recent claim made by the House of Lords Select Committee on HIV and AIDS that compulsory sex education it is "essential" to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS. Professor David Paton of Nottingham University said that call from the Select Committee was "surprising".

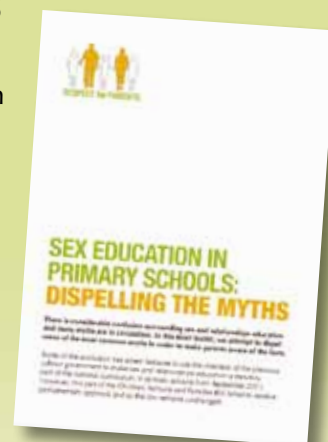
In his response Professor Paton listed the dangers of compulsory sex education:

- It would remove the right of parents to withdraw their children from SRE content that is inappropriate for their child.
- It would force all schools to follow the same curriculum.
- It would force primary schools to teach SRE irrespective of their pupils' circumstances and parental wishes.

Sex Education in Primary Schools: Dispelling the Myths

Many parents are confused by sex and relationships education in primary schools. Family Education Trust has produced an excellent leaflet for parents and others which states the truth about many of the myths surrounding this issue.

Here are some of the points taken from the leaflet which every parent needs to know:



- "Primary school governing bodies are required to consider whether sex education should be taught as part of the school curriculum, but they are free to decide not to teach it."
- "There is no requirement in national curriculum science at either Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 to teach children about the sexual organs, sexual intercourse, contraception, sexually transmitted infections or same-sex marriage."
- "There is no evidence to suggest that sex education explains why teenage pregnancy rates in the Netherlands are lower than in Britain."
- "Education law in the UK is clear that parents bear the legal responsibility for the education

of their children and that children must be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents."



Action point:

Order copies of this leaflet to give to parents so that they are fully informed. Contact: Family Education Trust, Jubilee House, 19-21 High Street, Whitton, Twickenham, Middlesex TW2 7LB.

Tel: 020 8894 2525 www.famyouth.org.uk
email: info@famyouth.org.uk

Parents taking action against explicit DVDs

Angry parents speak out to protect their children

Safe at School is supporting parents in the London borough of Tower Hamlets who launched a local campaign to protest about explicit sex DVDs being shown in science lessons. A number of primary schools in the borough were using the "Living and Growing" programme in science lessons.

Parents were worried that this was effectively introducing compulsory sex education by the back door. Science is a national curriculum subject and parents do not have the right to withdraw their children.

Pressure from parents forced the Tower Hamlets local authority to issue a statement giving parents the right to withdraw their children from compulsory science lessons "where a school is using non-statutory sex and relationship materials".

However, there is no evidence that the Department for Education has approved such a move or that schools will implement this.

Antonia Tully of the Safe at School Campaign said: "The key point here is that there is nothing in the national curriculum for



‘Stop teaching our youngsters about sex in science lessons’
Parents angry eight-year-olds are shown explicit DVD
Thursday June 30, 2011, East London Advertiser
by Mike Brooke
mike.brooke@tarchant.co.uk
withdraw my children from lessons which are unaccepta-

Press coverage following a public meeting in Tower Hamlets addressed by Antonia Tully of the Safe at School campaign.

science in primary schools which requires them to teach anything sexual. Primary schools should not be using science lessons to teach young children about sex."



Mohammed Goni (centre) with Habib Rahman (front) and Ahmed Hussain are parents at the Clara Grant primary school in Tower Hamlets. They collected over 260 signatures from parents at the school protesting against explicit sex lessons

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Action point: Contact Safe at School to organise a public meeting in your area to inform parents and others about what young children are being exposed to in sex education or science lessons.

Safe at school – helping parents to protect their children

Safe at School is an SPUC service which gives advice and support to parents who face unacceptable SRE in their children's schools.

Antonia Tully (pictured right) co-ordinates the activities of Safe at School. Antonia is married with five children at school, aged between 10 and 17 years old. You can contact Antonia by emailing safeatschool@spuc.org.uk or by phone on: 020 8407 3463.

Visit the Safe at School campaign webpage at: www.spuc.org.uk to see:

- Checklist of points for parents to find out what is happening in their children's schools.
- Press coverage of other parents protesting about *Living and Growing*.
- Share your experience of SRE with other parents.



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