

Safe at School bulletin

Information and Action

January 2019

Countdown to September 2020

What happens in September 2020?

In September 2020 **three** new compulsory subjects come into force in schools in **England**:

1. Relationships Education (ReEd) in all primary schools.
2. Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in all secondary schools.
3. Health Education in all schools.

'All schools' includes academies, faith, independent and free schools. Parents will not be allowed to withdraw their children from Relationships Education or Health Education. After September 2020 parents can still withdraw their children from Sex Education in primary school. However, in secondary schools, parents will have to ask the permission of the headteacher to withdraw their child from Sex Education.



Should parents be concerned?

Yes. Relationships Education is about a child's social and moral development. This part of a child's education should take place mainly in the family, and not in the classroom. These new subjects mean that it is the Government who will decide what children should learn about marriage, family, personal relationships and social values. Parents will be forced into second place when imparting their beliefs and values on these important matters to their children.

Make your voice heard: SEND A POSTCARD TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

Protect Parents' Rights: Give parents the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education

Now is the time to send a strong message to the Secretary of State for Education calling for parental rights to be protected so that parents can protect their children. Parents, grandparents and all concerned citizens should send a postcard now.

Postcards make a big impact. Please order postcards using the order form on the back page of this bulletin or at www.spuc.org.uk/ProtectParentsPostcard or call 020 7820 3141.



What is the Government planning

GOOD NEWS

Thanks to the overwhelming response to the Government's 'Call for Evidence' on ReEd and RSE (December 2017 – February 2018), when thousands of submissions upheld natural marriage and the family, the Government's Draft Guidance to schools on teaching ReEd, RSE and Health Education contains some helpful points:

- Parents and carers are the primary educators in many of the matters covered in the new subjects and that schools should reinforce this.
- Schools should consult with parents at every stage of developing and implementing an ReEd / RSE policy and programme.
- Schools have flexibility in developing a curriculum to meet the needs of their pupils and communities.

Parents must make sure that these important acknowledgements of their rightful role and that of the family are not undermined when ReEd/RSE comes into force.

BAD NEWS

From the outset it has been clear that the Government intends to use the new compulsory school subjects of ReEd and RSE to promote and normalise same-sex relationships. The Government's proposals below are outlined in its Draft Regulations and Guidance. See the Safe at School briefing at www.spuc.org.uk/RSEbriefing

In primary schools:

- Children must accept that families 'sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are characterised by love and care for them'.
- Children must also understand that marriage, including same-sex marriage and civil partnerships, represent 'a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong.'



BAD NEWS

- In other words, children will have to demonstrate 'respect' for the idea and practice of homosexual relationships and not just for the people involved in them.
- Children will be expected to agree that such relationships, including when they have children, are just as valid, positive and beneficial as those based on natural marriage.



In secondary schools:

- RSE presents a completely one-sided view of human sexuality and presents dangerous and unethical lifestyle choices as equally valid as natural marriage.
- Abortion is presented simply as one of the available options during pregnancy and pupils will be signposted to contraceptive and abortion services, without any parental knowledge or consent.
- The right of parents to withdraw their children from the 'sex education' parts of RSE, which the Government had promised to retain, has been removed and replaced only by a right **to request** withdrawal, with the final decision going to the head teacher. At 15 pupils will be allowed by the Government to overrule their parents' wishes.

For more information on the proposals in the Government's Draft Guidance to schools please go to: www.spuc.org.uk/RSEbriefing

for our children's schools?

HEALTH EDUCATION

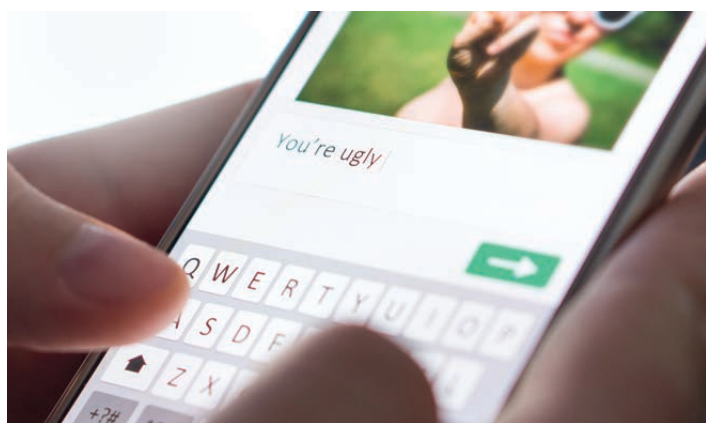
- This new compulsory subject, taught in conjunction with Relationships Education, shows that the Government believes it has a role in every aspect of a child's personal and social existence.
- Families have differing views and customs on such issues as diet, medicine and general well-being. Parents risk being undermined by the school.

JUSTIFICATIONS FOR RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

Parents and others should be aware that a number of important issues which affect children are being put forward as reasons why compulsory Relationships Education is needed. These include:

SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a serious matter and should be dealt with in the most rigorous way possible. Safe at School, however, has long been concerned that CSE is being irresponsibly used as a reason to justify compulsory Relationships Education. The overwhelming majority of children are not being abused. Telling every child that they could be the victim of abuse could, for instance, make children suspicious of normal interaction with their parents. In addition, school presentations on CSE place a burden on children themselves to decide whether they are being abused and to seek their own outside help, with little reference to their parents.



ONLINE AND DIGITAL THREATS

Parents need to be at the heart of strategies to protect children from online threats, as they are best placed to monitor and regulate their children's use of devices outside of school. The emphasis should be on schools supporting parents in fulfilling their natural role, rather than putting the unrealistic expectation and burden on children to police themselves.



BULLYING

Schools need to have robust policies in place to combat bullying of ALL kinds. Exaggerated claims about the extent of so-called 'homophobic' bullying have long been used as an excuse to promote LGBT ideology to children and invite homosexual activists into schools. This emphasis on homophobic bullying means that bullying for other reasons, by far the majority, risks being overlooked or side-lined.

PARENTS' RIGHTS MUST BE PROTECTED

Talking to children and young people in school about CSE, online threats and bullying should be done in a way that respects parental rights. Introducing a whole new compulsory school subject as a response to these problems is misguided. There is a risk that children will receive information and advice on these and other critical matters which parents may not agree with and will have no control over. On such sensitive issues, parents should decide what is most appropriate for their children to learn about and at what stage.

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What happens next?

1. The Department for Education has said that in spring 2019 they will publish the Government's response to the consultation, (which ended in Nov. 2018), on the Draft Statutory Guidance and Regulations for schools on the new compulsory subjects. At the same time, they will also publish the Guidance itself.

2. The Government will lay before Parliament the Final Draft Regulations for approval by MPs, who will vote on whether to accept the Regulations for our children's schools.



Take Action Now

1. Send a postcard to the Secretary of State for Education. (See front page.)

2. Write to your MP to express your concerns about the proposals for the new compulsory subject of Relationships Education and also that parents will have no right to withdraw their children from these lessons.

You can use points in this bulletin in your letter. You can find out who your MP is by going to www.spuc.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/write-to-your-mp

Send your letter to your MP at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Please forward a copy of any reply to Safe at School.

3. Engage with your child's school, including faith schools:

- Start to talk with your child's teacher/headteacher/governing body about how these new subjects will be taught in your child's school. What will be the content of the lessons? What resources will be used? Which organisation(s) will be advising the school? Schools should give full disclosure to parents.
- Ask your child's school for a consultation with parents on the content and delivery of these new subjects. Every parent should be given a chance to contribute. This could be school-wide at primary level and year-wide at secondary level.
- Exercise your right to withdraw your child from Sex and Relationships Education while this is still possible.

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 7820 3141

POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

Please send me **PROTECT PARENTS' RIGHTS** postcards 10 50 100 Other, please state _____

Please send me more copies of this bulletin 5 10 15 Other, please state _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone*: _____ Email*: _____

*Please complete if you are happy for us to contact you in this way. You can also order postcards at www.spuc.org.uk/ProtectParentsPostcard

Please return this form to: SPUC Safe at School, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London SE11 4AB