



Frequently Asked Questions about Relationships, Health and Sex Education

Q: Will Ark Ayrton need to engage with me before teaching the new curriculum?

Schools are required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will support schools in finalising their curriculum and RSHE policy. Effective engagement gives the space and time for parents to input, ask questions, share concerns and for the school to decide the way forward. Schools will listen to parents' views, and then make a reasonable decision as to how they wish to proceed. When and how content is taught is ultimately a decision for the school, and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content. A school's policies for these subjects must be published online and must be available to any individual free of charge. Schools should also ensure that, when they engage parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use.

Q: Will my child be taught sex education at primary?

Sex education is not compulsory at primary school. However, Relationships Education at primary has been put in place to create 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. Ark Ayrton, like many primary schools, has chosen to teach sex education (which goes beyond the existing national curriculum for science) tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of our pupils. Please note- we will only teach sex education to our Y6 pupils.

Q: Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?

Parents have a right to request to withdraw their child from sex education delivered in Y6. There is no right to withdraw from RSHE at primary. The contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Q: Does the new Relationships Education and health curriculum take account of my faith?

The subjects are designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of pupils was considered when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled. In developing these subjects, the Department of Education worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England.

Q: Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?

A thorough engagement process, involving a public call for evidence and discussions with over 90 organisations, as well as the public consultation on the draft regulations and guidance, has informed the key decisions on these subjects. The consultation received over 11,000 responses from teachers, schools, expert organisations, young people and parents – these responses have helped finalise the statutory guidance.

Q: Will my child be taught about LGBT relationships?

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. Teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist can be done in a way that respects everyone. Our taught content does not 'promote' LGBTQ lifestyles. However, it does raise children's awareness that there are people in society, who are LGBTQ. This is not done in isolation. When discussing similarity and difference in lessons, children learn about a whole range of differences, such as difference in physical appearance and personality, likes and dislikes, and that people can have differences of opinion. This helps them to understand that we are all unique human beings. Within the

context of these lessons they will also be introduced to different cultures and ethnicities, people with different religions and beliefs, and about people with disability or special needs.