



Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Kingston and Richmond - joint statement to support the new Relationships Education, Relationships & Sex Education, and Health Education statutory guidance and curriculum content

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Kingston and Richmond Councils and Achieving for Children welcome the government's new compulsory subjects of Relationships Education, Relationships & Sex Education and Health Education (RSHE) in schools, to be delivered from September 2020. This will contribute to the overall safeguarding, health and wellbeing of children and young people in Kingston and Richmond.

The purpose of this document is to outline the national policy behind this guidance, Kingston and Richmond's support of this guidance, and schools' responsibilities in its delivery, including what changes have been made and why they are important.

'Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, which for many sees them living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities but also challenges and risks. In this environment children and young people need to know how to keep themselves safe and make healthy choices and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.'

Adapted from [RSHE Guidance foreword by Secretary of State for Education, February 2019](#)

National policy

The new Department for Education statutory guidance was published in July 2019 under the Children and Social Work Act 2017. It reinforces Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education delivered in schools to date by ensuring that **all** pupils in **every** school are consistently supported with the right information, skills and knowledge to enable them to keep safe and build their resilience as they journey into adulthood.

The focus of the curriculum under the new guidance is about relationships in primary school, and sex and relationships in secondary school. Health education will be delivered throughout the school years. Children will be taught through age-appropriate learning about: families; friendship; caring and respectful relationships; the law; basic first aid; mental and physical wellbeing, including changes to their bodies as children grow up; internet safety. Sex education will not be statutory in primary schools, however the government makes it clear that schools should still provide a programme of age appropriate sex education.

Relationships teaching also needs to meet schools' duty (under the Equality Act 2010) to promote equality, helping to ensure that every child can grow up in an environment where



they feel included. This means schools need to reflect and take into account different 'protected characteristics' in relationships education, including disability, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. This will promote an understanding and respect of this diversity in line with British values and society today.

Position Statement

Many schools in Kingston and Richmond are already delivering the 'new' RSHE curriculum content, making a significant contribution to short and longer term health outcomes for young residents, including their safeguarding needs. Local evidence supports national findings around how children and young people's emotional and physical wellbeing can benefit from receiving high quality RSHE in school. This includes recognising and being able to contribute to kind and loving family and peer relationships from a young age. Children are more likely to know what abuse is, both in person and online, and how to seek help if they need it. As they grow older, young people with good age-appropriate RSHE teaching are more likely to experience consensual, respectful intimate relationships, delay the age of first sex, and look after their sexual health into adulthood.

Kingston schools are supported through local health service partner Your Healthcare and other specialists to ensure that our children can develop their skills and resilience, including emotional wellbeing, to develop positive health choices and facilitate outcomes which minimise harm.

Richmond schools are supported through a network of community and health partners that enable children, young people and their families to build the resilience, skills and knowledge that promotes positive health outcomes and safeguards them from harm.

School responsibilities

School governing bodies and senior management are responsible for making sure that the school curriculum complies with statutory requirements under the Education Act 2002 and are meeting the new Ofsted Personal Development Framework (2019). The inclusion of Relationships Education, and RSHE as a whole, will be fundamental to achieving the Personal Development Judgement and delivering a balanced and broadly based school curriculum which should:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- Prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Schools will continue to be supported in Kingston and Richmond to deliver high quality PSHE teaching through the 'new' RSHE curriculum. A whole school development approach will also help schools ensure that their ethos, values and environment can support this curriculum. Schools will need to update their existing written policies to reflect the guidance around Relationships Education and RSE by defining what will be taught and how.



Schools are also required to consult parents in developing and reviewing their policies to make sure it meets the needs of pupils and parents, and reflects the community they serve. Existing respectful partnerships with parents will help parents to understand the purpose and content of topics which will be covered with pupils, and how they can support this education at home to enable the best learning outcomes for their child.

New to the guidance is the specific reference to the requirement to cover the diverse range and nature of family life and relationships, including same sex relationships, to reflect the society in which we grow up. This contributes to promoting equality of opportunity and promotes positive steps to prevent any form of discrimination. This topic falls into the category of Relationships Education and as such there is no right to withdraw children from this part of the curriculum.

Schools will ensure that parents understand their rights to withdraw their child from some aspects of sex education, which is treated differently at primary and secondary school levels. Parents do not have a right to withdraw from Health Education or the National Curriculum for science. This includes subject content in related areas such as understanding about the main external body parts (including genitals), the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty), and reproduction in some plants and animals.

Our boroughs aim to support schools in working with wider faith and community organisations, alongside parents, to ensure that our children and young people are given the best opportunities to stay safe, embrace different, individual identities, ask for help when needed, and form healthy and caring and respectful relationships.

Further information and resources

National guidance

[The Department for Education Statutory guidance 2019](#) June 2019

[DfE updated guidance for schools on implementation 2020-2021](#) July 2020

For parents

[Department for Education guides for parents, primary and secondary](#) and versions in Arabic, Somali and Urdu

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) on Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education:

[Department for Education FAQs](#)

[Sex Education Forum FAQs](#)

For schools

PSHE Association, Sex Education Forum and 5 education unions, 2019

[Roadmap to statutory RSE: 10 step guide for senior leaders to prepare to provide high quality RSE](#)



PSHE Association, 2020 [Relationships Education and RSE: guides to parental engagement](#)

PSHE Association 2020 [Programme of study for PSHE Education key Stages 1-5](#)

Sex Education Forum 2020 [Aligning Ofsted and RSE reform changes](#)

For local councils

Local Government Association and partners 2018 [RSE: What role can councillors play?](#)

Local Government Association Nov 2019

[Engaging with schools and communities to support inclusive teaching of RSE](#)