



# Relationships and Health Education

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Our consultation period on the new statutory Relationships and Health Education curriculum has concluded. The responses were as follows:

Agree the proposal as it stands with no reservations: 10

Agree with reservations: 0 (Nil)

Disagree totally: 3

Of the three disagreeing:

2 gave no further comment

1 questioned the age appropriateness of the content

We hope that the following Q and A's will add further re-assurance and we will also be sharing a year by year break-down of content later this term.

## **1. Does the new DfE statutory Relationships and Health Education guidance replace PSHE?**

No, we need to be delivering the DfE's Relationships Education and Health Education statutory guidance within and as part of the wider PSHE curriculum.

The new guidance doesn't cover everything needed for a comprehensive PSHE curriculum. Vital elements such as the rights of the child, caring for the environment, economic education, and parts of British Values and SMSC are not included.

## **2. Do we have to teach about LGBT identities and families?**

Yes, the statutory guidance states that schools must teach about families of many forms and this includes LGBT parents.

The public sector equality duty, created under the Equality Act, also requires schools to eliminate discrimination and to advance equality in its everyday business, in the design of its policies and curriculum.

Our approach on this will be to inform not to promote. No particular way of life will be promoted. We will meet our legal duties under the Equalities Act. We have children with all types of family constitution here at Parkdale and all should feel recognised and valued.

## **3. My understanding is Sex Education is non-statutory and therefore parents can withdraw from it.**

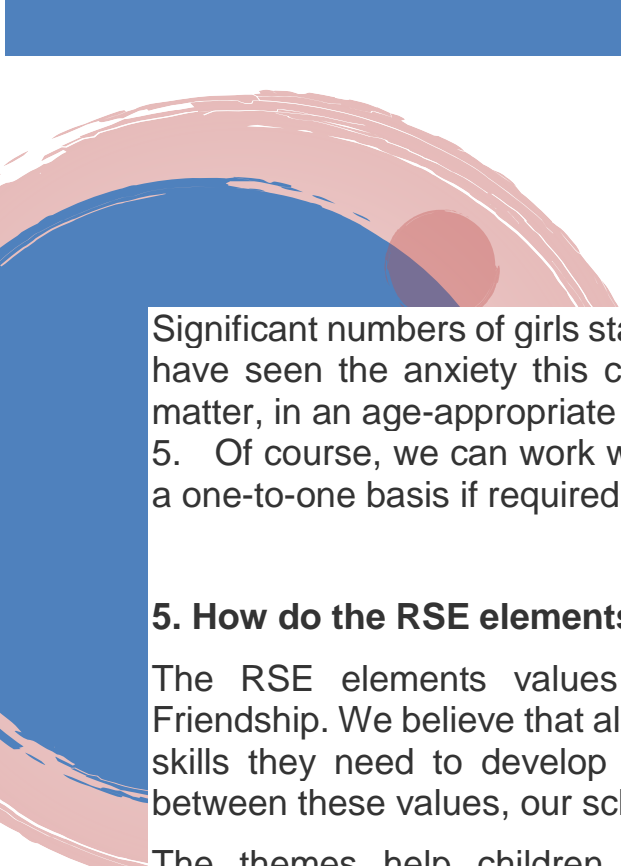
We interpret sex education to mean puberty, conception, reproduction and birth. All of these themes, with the exception of conception, are statutory and are included in either Health Education or National Curriculum: Science.

The statutory guidance states that sex education should ensure children know how a baby is conceived. We interpret 'how a baby is conceived' as referring to what happens during sexual intercourse before an egg and sperm meet (reproduction). We therefore include sexual intercourse as well as IVF in our Year 6 *Making Babies* lesson. **The right to withdraw from this lesson or series of lessons will continue to exist.**

## **4. How early do will you to be delivering menstruation to the girls? I've heard it needs to be Year 3 which feels too early.**

The statutory guidance states puberty should be covered in Health Education and should be addressed before onset so, as far as possible, pupils are prepared in advance for changes they will experience. Best practice states that menstruation education should be delivered to both boys and girls, as learning about menstruation is a concept of reproduction, as covered by the national curriculum science and fosters good relationships by breaking down the stigma of going through these changes leading to less bullying.

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Significant numbers of girls start their periods late in Year 4 and then into Year 5. We have seen the anxiety this can cause and would propose to start to discuss the matter, in an age-appropriate way, toward the end of Year 4 and at the start of Year 5. Of course, we can work with and support girls who start their periods earlier on a one-to-one basis if required.

### **5. How do the RSE elements support the values of faith?**

The RSE elements values of Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship. We believe that all children deserve to be safe, cared for and to learn the skills they need to develop healthy relationships. We feel there is a natural fit between these values, our school values and the values of the major religions.

The themes help children from all backgrounds to build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. We will be clear what is opinion or belief and what is information regarding the law and legal rights.


### **6. What about Mental Health?**

The Health Education section of the new DfE statutory requirements have a whole section on mental wellbeing. This also comes into many of the Relationships Education outcomes – particularly the categories of Respectful Relationships (including bullying behaviours) Online Relationships and Being Safe.

Wellbeing will continue to play a prominent part in our school life.

### **7. Will there be a commercial scheme used?**

Yes, we have subscribed to SCARF, from Coram Education, as this provides a framework that fits our values, ‘growth mindset approach’ and meets the legal requirements. We will be sharing year-by-year content in more detail nearer the time of implementation, later this term.





## 8. Where can we read more?

You can read the details of the new expectations from the DfE here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

You can see more about SCARF here:

<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/scarf/>

