

Frequently asked questions from Redbridge families regarding the statutory changes to RSE in September 2020.

Please note these FAQs were developed before the current pandemic of Covid-19.

You will appreciate that with schools closed at present for most children and with many staff self-isolating or working on rotas, it's not possible for us to provide any detailed timeframe for next steps at the moment. However, once we have a view from the DfE about schools re-opening we will update parents and carers on RSE through schools.

1. What are the key topics within Primary Relationship Education

An overview of the topics for Primary Relationship education - as outlined by the DfE are:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships (manners, treating others with respect)
- Online relationships (including cyber bullying and e-safety risks)
- Being safe (privacy and safeguarding)

2. Is Sex Education taught in Primary school?

There is no statutory requirement to teach Sex Education within the Primary curriculum.

If your school chooses to teach Sex Education in addition to the statutory Relationship Education and Health Education outcomes they will have to outline this in their RSE policy.

3. Are families allowed to have a copy of PSHE syllabus so we can be familiar with the content being taught at each year?

Yes – the DfE guidance is available for the public to see. In addition to this the Local Authority syllabus will be available from approx. 8th June. This will share the end of year outcomes for each year of schooling.

4. Which elements of the curriculum are compulsory.

From September 2020 all areas of PSHE including Relationship Education (as overviewed above for Primary) and Health Education are compulsory within Primary School and Secondary School.

5. How it will impact my children

All children in Primary school from Year 1 will continue to learn about age appropriate areas of learning to help them navigate the challenges, opportunities and risks in the complex world in which they are growing up. (see the statement from Secretary of State)

6. How will parents be consulted and our views considered

There will be parent representatives sharing their views on the syllabus drafts alongside the education representatives at the working party meetings.

7. Will there be meetings to discuss any issues
At present issues can be raised via email with Danielle.
8. Will families receive a step by step of what will be covered and step by step of the individual subjects for primary children.
Families will be able to access the syllabus which will give a breakdown of outcomes for Relationship Education by school year.
9. How often will Relationship education be taught?
Schools will create their own policy that will identify how they plan to teach PSHE. It is likely that the outcomes will be taught weekly or in block topic sessions. The outcomes such as “to identify a range of emotions and how they make them feel” may be taught in other cross curriculum areas e.g. English.
10. Will families see the resources being used?
Teachers have a professional duty and training to choose age appropriate resources for all subjects within the curriculum. As with other subjects the school has no duty to share these resources. However – the syllabus will recommend schools to share the resources planned to be used when teaching the Y5 Science curriculum and Changes to the adolescent body and puberty.
11. What type of schools must follow this curriculum?
This new curriculum applies to all schools, whether maintained, non-maintained or independent schools, including academies and free schools, non-maintained special schools, maintained special schools and alternative provision, including pupil referral units. Independent schools do not have to teach the Health Education element because PSHE is already compulsory as independent schools must meet the Independent School Standards as set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014. Independent schools, however, may find the principles in the guidance on Health Education helpful in planning an age-appropriate curriculum.
12. Which (faith leaders) will be engaged with?
The LA are communicating with SACRE (the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) within Redbridge to arrange the consultation with faith leaders. The members and faith leaders within SACRE are representatives of our Borough’s religions.
13. How can we support conversations with our children after teaching?
By accessing the syllabus and knowing what outcomes will be covered within your child’s school year will mean that you can have conversations with your child after. The Syllabus will also include some standardised responses developed by the working parties which you may find useful. Of course, some conversations that you have with your child will be supported by your families’ religious values and beliefs also.
14. Right to withdraw
There is no right to withdraw from the Relationships and Health education or PSHE curriculum.

Within Primary you can withdraw from any non-statutory teaching of Sex education that is outlined within the school policy if relevant to your school.

You can withdraw your child from all or some Sex Education in Secondary school.

15. How will the syllabus will be developed to respect all members of our very diverse community?

The syllabus must cover the statutory outcomes outlined by the DfE. However, we have a duty to educate from a position of safeguarding, tolerance and respect. We will have stakeholders such as educators, parents and faith leaders represented within the working party so that a variety of views can be shared.