



## Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Following on from parent/carer survey and focus groups, here are some of your most frequently asked questions.**

Q: Will my child be taught sex education at Brindishe Schools?

A: We are not introducing compulsory sex education at Brindishe Schools. We are introducing Relationships Education, to put in place 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.

Brindishe Schools choose to teach sex education (which goes beyond the existing national curriculum for science) in Years 5 & 6, tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of our pupils. If you continue to have concerns, you have an automatic right to withdraw your child from these sex education lessons after consultation with the class teacher and head teacher.

Q: Will my child's school have to engage with me before teaching these subjects?

A: Brindishe Schools have now completed their consultation with parents when developing and reviewing our policies for Relationships Education and RSE. Effective engagement has given our parents/carers the space and time to input, ask questions, share concerns and for us as a school to decide the way forward. We listened to parents' views, and then made a reasonable decision as to how we 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 is published online, and is available to any individual free of charge.

Q: Will my child's school still have to teach these subjects from September despite the recent disruption?

A: The subjects will be compulsory from September 2020. Schools that have met the requirements set out in the statutory guidance, for example engaging parents and carers, are encouraged to begin teaching the new curriculum from September 2020. Schools that are not ready to teach the subjects, or are unable to meet the requirements because of the

challenging circumstances, should aim to start preparations as soon as possible and begin teaching the new curriculum by at least the start of the summer term 2021.

For more information download our advice for primary schools on [engaging parents on Relationships Education](#).

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

A: 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 must be taken into account when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled. Schools with a religious character can build on the core required content by reflecting their beliefs in their teaching.

In developing these subjects, we have worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England. Several faith organisations produce teaching materials that schools can choose to use.

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

A: 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?

A: 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, and educate pupils about healthy relationships.

Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT content during their school years. 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. Primary schools are strongly encouraged and enabled to cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families.

Secondary schools should cover LGBT content in their RSE teaching. RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law.

Q: What support will schools receive to deliver these subjects well?

A: We are investing in a central support package to help teachers introduce these subjects well and with confidence. This will include a new online service, featuring access to high quality resources, innovative training materials, case studies and an implementation guide, available from Spring 2020.

There will also be training available for teachers through existing regional networks, offering opportunities to improve subject knowledge and build confidence.

We're working with expert organisations, schools and teachers to develop this support.

Q: Where can I find out more information about what will be taught in my child's school?

A: If you want to know more about what will be taught as part of the new subjects, the best thing to do is speak to your child's school. We have also published [parent guides](#), which explain what the subjects are, and parents' rights.

These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum.

Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up. Your child's school will have flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.