

## **Relationship Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Training for Secondary Schools**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q Who is providing the training?**

**A** The training is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and being delivered by The Alliance for Learning School through the PSHE Hub. The training will be delivered by the Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) for PSHE using DfE materials and other available resources.

**Q What will the training cover?**

**A** The training will cover the statutory changes to the curriculum for September 2020. It will cover each of the 14 topics that form part of the curriculum. It will assist you in being able to cascade the information to other teachers in your school who will be teaching the curriculum to students.

The training will also provide you with materials that you can use, lesson ideas, contacts to external networks and peer support sessions.

**Q Who can attend the training?**

**A** The training is available to all state funded secondary schools. Other providers are offering training to primary schools and if you want us to provide you with a contact them let us know. The training is for one staff member from each school. We are funded to deliver to up to 200 secondary schools.

**Q When will the training start and how long will it take?**

**A** The training programme is currently being developed and we expect that the training will start in June 2019. We are expecting that there will be on-line and face-to-face options, but this of course depends on when schools are fully re-opened. The training programme will finish in March 2021. The training will involve approximately two days work. There will

be pre-reading, presentations and activities in the three main sessions and then access to materials will be provided thereafter. We appreciate that some participants will want more support than others.

**Q** What is my commitment?

**A** The training is free of charge. Your commitment is time and participation. We hope that delegates will share good practice and their contacts so that we can all have access to as full a range of materials as possible that will support all secondary schools.

**Q** How will I access the on-line training?

**A** The on-line training will be delivered through Google Classrooms. This is a free resource that many teachers are already familiar with. You will be provided with an access code so that you can gain access. Your virtual classroom will be divided into three sections, these being; overview, introduction and useful documents, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education. The two main areas will include the 14 topics areas required to be covered by the DfE. You will also have access to the SLEs and others in the classroom so that you can ask questions and share ideas. You will also access a questionnaire that we will ask you to complete at the end of your training.

Each attendee will be allocated a classroom with a number of other teachers. We will deliver the face-to-face training in groups of approximately 20.

**Q** Can I share resources?

**A** Yes, when you start the training you can share materials in the classroom. We welcome your involvement.

**Q** How will I deliver the training to teachers in my school?

**A** This is entirely up to you, however we will share some ideas with you. We know that the mode of delivery of PSHE is different in each school and therefore you will need to make it work for you. We will provide you with the information and access to materials that you will need.

**Q** Why does the training finish in March?

**A** The programme is funded with an end date of March 2021. However, if due to the current situation, the start date is delayed, the end date might change. We will keep the Google Classroom open so that you can continue to gain access to the materials and use it as a 'chat group' with others.

## **Q** I have registered my interest, what next?

**A** We will be in touch with those schools that have registered. We will then have final detailed information to share with you.

### **The following are FAQs from the DfE**

(source [https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/supporting\\_documents/RSEPSHEFAQs.pdf](https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/supporting_documents/RSEPSHEFAQs.pdf))

Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education The Department for Education is introducing compulsory Relationships Education for primary pupils and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for secondary pupils from September 2020. Also, from September 2020 it will be compulsory for all schools to teach Health Education. Through these subjects, we want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe – we want to equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. Throughout our engagement process as we develop this curriculum, we have heard a number of wide ranging concerns. Below, we have explained some of the common misconceptions around the subjects.

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

Schools will be required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE. These policies must be published online, and must be available to any individual free of charge. Schools should also ensure that, when they consult parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use.

#### **Q: Will my child will be taught sex education at primary? This is too young.**

A: We are not introducing compulsory sex education at primary school. We are introducing Relationships Education at primary, 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. Some primary schools choose to teach sex education (which goes beyond the existing national curriculum for science), and in those instances we recommend you discuss this with the school to understand what they propose to teach and how. If you continue to have concerns, you have an automatic right to withdraw your child from these lessons.

#### **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 content by reflecting their beliefs in their teaching. In developing these subjects, we have worked with a number of faith organisations and representative bodies. Schools can also consider drawing on their expertise when delivering these subjects.

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

A: Parents will have a right to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE, which unless there are exceptional circumstances, should be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary or secondary as we believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

**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 as well as the regulations that have been laid and will be subject to parliamentary debates.

**Q: Will these subjects promote 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. 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. Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT relationships during their school years. We expect secondary schools to include LGBT content and whilst there is no specific requirement to teach about LGBT in primary schools, they can cover LGBT content if they consider it age 3 appropriate to do so. This would be delivered, for example, through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents.

**Q: Will teachers receive training before delivering these subjects?**

A: The department is committed to supporting schools to deliver these subjects to a high standard. We know that training is a priority for teachers and we will be consulting with teachers, trade unions and other key stakeholders over the coming months on how we structure the training. In addition, we will be encouraging schools to act as early adopters for this curriculum and to start teaching the subjects from September 2019. To help early adopter schools, we will provide further advice on how they can improve their practices. Lesson learned from the early adopters and best practice from schools will be shared with all schools from September 2020.