



Department
for Education

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Relationships and health education
in primary schools

What's changing?

From September 2020 all primary pupils will be taught about relationships and health. This will help them to grow up happy, healthy and safe, and be prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the modern world, both on and offline.

These subjects will help pupils understand healthy relationships such as friendships, different kinds of families, bullying, internet safety, as well as physical and mental health. Much of this will not be new as many primary schools already cover these areas.

What will these subjects cover?

These subjects educate, focusing on the facts and the law, and respecting religious beliefs. They aim to foster tolerance and respect for people and different families either in your child's school or in the wider world.

As part of relationships education, schools will teach about different types of families, such as LGBT or single parent families. They should do this in a way that is sensitive to the needs and religious background of their pupils and is age appropriate.

Relationships and health education will not teach children about sex. Primary schools can choose to cover sex education in an age appropriate way, but sex education will only be mandatory for secondary pupils.

What are your rights as a parent?

Schools must consult parents when developing and reviewing their policies for relationships education. It's important that you have a chance to ask questions and your school will be talking to you as they start to plan what they will teach.

It is ultimately up to schools to decide when and how different topics are taught. Having listened to concerns raised by parents, your child's school will make a decision on their curriculum content.

If your child's primary school chooses to offer age-appropriate sex education, you should speak to them about what will be taught. If you have concerns, you will be able to withdraw your child automatically from some or all of these lessons. You will not be able to withdraw your child from relationships education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe.

**If you want to know more about what will be taught and when,
the best thing to do is speak to your child's school.**



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