

Parent Consultation on Relationships and Sex Education

Bredon Hill Academy
6th June 2019



Objective: To consult parents about the RSE provision at Bredon Hill Academy

Intended outcome:

Improved curriculum and policy which is designed to meet the specific needs of pupils at Bredon Hill Academy and help to keep them safe.



Statistics show that by the end of the teenage years most young people in the UK will have had sex. The average age of sexual debut in the UK is 16 - 17.

While most young people nowadays have not had sexual intercourse by the time they turn sixteen, between a third and half have.

The average age for young people to start accessing porn is 11.

The law on RSE:

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.



Taken from UK.GOV website:

‘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’.



UK.GOV:

‘Schools will be required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will inform schools’ decisions on when and how certain content is covered. Effective consultation gives the space and time for parents to input, ask questions, share concerns and for the school to decide the way forward. Schools will listen to parent’s views, and then make a reasonable decision as to how they wish to proceed. What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content.’



Primary – KS2

Sex Education will not be compulsory at primary level. **Relationships Education will be compulsory** at this level 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.



Secondary level

Relationships and Sex Education will be compulsory from September 2020. Parents will have a right to withdraw their child from **sex education** delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools 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 rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

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.



Why RSE is important

Data from Natsal-3 (National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles) indicates that young people who report lessons at school as their main source of information about sex are less likely to have had unsafe sex in the past year than young people who report receiving most of their information about sex from other (non-parental) sources. Those who learn about sex mainly through school lessons also tend to report being older the first time they have sex and are less likely to report having had an STI diagnosis.



Why RSE is important

‘Those who report receiving most of their information about sex from school-based sex education are more likely to report being ‘sexually competent’ the first time they have sex (ie, both partners are ‘equally willing’, reliable contraception is used, the decision to have sex is not due to peer pressure, drunkenness or drugs, and sex occurs at the perceived ‘right time.’



Effective RSE consists of a balance of four elements:

Knowledge: The mechanics of sex including the biological aspects, fertility, pregnancy, contraception, abortion and sexually transmitted infections, puberty, sexuality, the law.

Values and beliefs: Explore values and beliefs and consider how we are affected by them, appreciation of difference, tolerance and openness. Ownership of the relevance of this knowledge to our own lives and community.

Skills: Communication and personal skills necessary to develop and maintain relationships and make informed choices and decisions regarding sexual health and emotional wellbeing eg assertion, negotiation, consent.

Emotions and feelings: Understanding the effects that emotions have, promote positive feelings such as empowerment and self-respect. Dispelling negative feelings eg fear, shame and embarrassment. Understanding appropriate expression of feelings.

What constitutes 'good' RSE?

Adaptable

Spiral curriculum

Age appropriate

Interactive and engaging

Safe

Confidential

Of sufficient duration and intensity



Who should teach RSE?

‘Good sex educators enjoy teaching RSE, have experiential knowledge and are comfortable with their own sexuality. They are professional, confident, unembarrassed, straightforward, experienced at talking about sex and use everyday language. They have expertise in sexual health, are specifically trained in RSE, are trustworthy, approachable, non-judgemental and able to maintain confidentiality.’



Who should teach RSE?

Pupils should feel comfortable and safe. The approach should be sex-positive, potentially offer expertise, confidentiality and continuity, but also distinct boundaries.



Activity

Using the words on the sheet, place them along a timeline of the ages at which you think children should learn about them.



Activity

In pairs, look at the curriculum and RAG those which you think are a priority/less important for Bredon Hill Academy pupils



Discussion time/looking at resources and
the Bredon Hill Academy Relationships and
Sex Education policy



Where can you find out more to help your children?