

Frequently Asked Questions

The Department for Education announced compulsory Relationships Education and Health Education (RHE) from September 2020 and all schools are required to comply with these changes. The purpose of this education is to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe – they need to be equipped for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. It has been 20 years since the last review of these curriculum areas, and in that time the world has changed significantly. Children now face new challenges: they have to process lots of information from different sources such as TV, the internet, social media, understand how society is changing, understand risks they may face, all putting pressure on their physical and mental health.

Below, we have explained some of the common misconceptions around Relationships and Health Education (based on DFE guidance).

Q: Why now?

A: The Equality Act came into force in 2010. The Equality Act 2010 states that it is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage or civil partnership
- Pregnancy or maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex/gender
- Sexual orientation (Government, 2010, p1)

The public sector Equality Duty came into force on 5th April 2011 and requires that public bodies (including schools):

- Have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

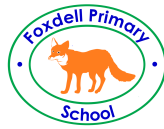
(Government Equalities Office 2013, p1) This makes it clear that promoting some of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act while ignoring others is against UK law.

Q: What is teaching about equality?

A: It is teaching about:

- Difference
- Acceptance
- Tolerance
- Diversity
- How to challenge discrimination

Teaching about equality helps our children to prepare for the next stages in their lives.



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

A: We are not introducing 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.

At Foxdell, we will only teach compulsory relationships and health education.

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

A: The RHE curriculum is 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.

In developing these subjects, the DfE 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: Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Health Education?

A: There is no parental right of withdrawal from Relationships Education or Health Education content within the school curriculum, or from any statutory education that forms part of the National Curriculum for Science. These are statutory requirements which the DfE mandates schools to teach. 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.

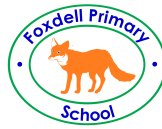
Q: Will my child be taught about LGBT relationships?

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 cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families. RHE 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: Will these subjects promote LGBT relationships?

A: No, these subjects don't 'promote' anything, they educate. We are teaching about equality. Our school ethos says that we are respectful of everyone. We value ourselves and all others: This means that we welcome all faiths, gender, sexual orientations, etc. In our



school, the teaching of LGBT will be delivered through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents. All our planned learning will be taught in an age appropriate way. Please refer to our policy and schemes of work for content.

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

A: Please refer to the RHE policy and guidance in the curriculum section on our school website. The DFE have also published parent guides, which explain what the subjects are, and parents' rights- these can also be found on our website.

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.

Q: What are the topics covered in RHE?

A: In school RHE topics will be taught within our Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. We follow the Jigsaw and Christopher Winters schemes of work to teach PSHE- you can find our curriculum overviews in our policy.

Q: How will we know what is being taught so I can talk to my child about it at home?

A: Parents are welcome to come into school to look at the schemes of work that we will be using. Each half term, you will receive a curriculum map for your child's year group (this can also be found on the website). This will summarise what is being taught. If you need to discuss this further, teachers will be happy to discuss this with you or signpost other resources that can be used at home to support discussions.

Q: Will this work prompt my children to ask challenging questions?

A: Possibly, your child or children trust you and will be likely to ask you questions to test your beliefs and opinions. Please don't avoid them, talk openly about diversity and equality.