

Q: Will my child 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 recognizing the difference between online and offline friendships. The sex education aspect of the curriculum will stay the same and will be taught in Upper Years as usual. Your teacher will inform you when these specific units are about to be taught to enable you to exercise your right to withdraw your child.

Q: What is covered in the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum?

The new curriculum guidance sets out the content under the following headings: 'Families and people who care for me', 'Caring friendships', 'Respectful relationships', 'Online relationships', 'Being safe'.

Q: Does the new Relationships and Sex Education 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.

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

A: There is no right to withdraw from *Relationships Education* at primary as we the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. Parents *do* have the right to withdraw their children from the components of sex education within *Relationships and Sex Education* curriculum, and any requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the Headteacher. Application Forms for this are available on request.

Q: Will these subjects promote LGBT relationships?

A: No, these subjects are not designed to 'promote' anything, they raise awareness of the society in which children are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. *Relationships and Sex Education* 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. Primary schools are enabled and encouraged to cover LGBT content if they consider it age appropriate to do so, but there is no specific requirement for this.

Q: Will teachers receive training before delivering these subjects?

A: The *Dept for Education* is committed to supporting schools to deliver these subjects to a high standard. As a designated 'Early Adopter' school, Silver Springs Primary Academy received guidance as a priority. This will be available alongside the delivering of the curriculum so that its statutory implementation in September 2021 will be as successful as it can be.

Q: How can you make sure that children get confidential advice and support?

It is important that children can get confidential one-to-one support as well as having opportunities to learn about sex and relationships with their peer group. The classroom is a public place, where it is not appropriate to talk about private concerns. However, relationships and sex education is likely to raise personal issues for some young people. This is why we will give children clear information about where they can get confidential advice and support - either in school or locally. This complies with the government guidance that schools give young people "precise details of local confidential advice services".