



Relationships and Health Education (RHE)

Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools in England. However, Relationships Education, Health Education and the Science Curriculum are compulsory.

The legislation brought in through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 brought about some important changes in relation to parental rights to withdraw children from school RSE:

- Parents will not be able to withdraw their child from Relationships Education in primary school or secondary school but will be able to withdraw their child from primary school classes which address sex education - i.e. those that do not sit within the Relationships Education curriculum.
- Maintained primary schools are required to teach National Curriculum science, which includes some elements of sex education. Parents do not have a right to withdraw from this.
- Schools will continue to be required to publish policies on these subjects for parents, and statutory guidance will continue to set out that schools should consult parents on those policies to ensure they are feeding in their views.

Our school chooses to teach aspects of 'Sex Education' in years 5 and 6, which means teaching about sexual intimacy.

Below are details of lessons taught:

1. Making Babies - This lesson would be considered part of the 'Sex Education' curriculum. In this lesson, children are taught about how pregnancy is the product of sexual union between a married Christian couple. The subject is sensitively handled for children in Year 5 or 6.
2. Seeing Stuff Online - This lesson addresses the risks that children face from seeing pornographic images and videos online. On the one hand, this is very much a lesson about 'internet safety' and therefore falls under the statutory Health Education curriculum.
3. Puberty - The first teaching on puberty is taught at Year 4. This includes teaching on the growth of genitals, hair growth and the first teaching about menstruation. This teaching continues into years 5 and 6.

You can review sample lessons by following the link below:

[Key Decisions – Ten Ten Resources](#)

Username

st-josephs-rg12

Password

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If you would like to be able to withdraw your child from lessons which address sex education, please let your class teacher know in writing.

Mrs N Philpott

St Joseph's Catholic School