



# Relationships, Health and Sex Education Guidance

The Diocese of London has an exciting [2030 Vision](#) for every young Londoner to experience the love of God in Christ. The LDBS aims to serve and support schools to be:

- Places where all [can flourish](#)
- Places which enable [transformational futures](#)
- [Deeply Christian, committed to serving the common good](#) with the invitation of Jesus to *'life in all its fullness'* at their heart (John 10:10)

One significant aspect of our work is to teach all pupils and young people within our family of schools how to stay safe and healthy. We desire for each pupil to develop a strong sense of identity and self-worth, learning to treat others with dignity and respect so that all may flourish.

## Statutory Requirements

In September 2020 Relationships Education (primary schools), Relationships and Sex Education (secondary schools) and Health Education (all schools) became statutory.

All schools are required to have a Relationships Education and/or Relationship and Sex Education policy in place. It is expected that parents are consulted in the process of writing and reviewing this policy.

Schools are expected to deliver the statutory content within the context of a broad and balanced curriculum.

DfE guidance for Physical Health and Mental Well-being in Primary and Secondary Schools can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/physical-health-and-mental-wellbeing-primary-and-secondary>

DfE guidance for Relationships Education for Primary Schools can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-education-primary>

DfE guidance for Relationships and Sex Education in Primary and Secondary Schools can be found here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1090195/Relationships Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1090195/Relationships_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

DfE guidance for Relationships and Sex Education in Secondary Schools can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-and-sex-education-rse-secondary>



Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education before their child reaches 16 years old. They can not withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

For further information and guidance about the right to withdraw please refer to the DfE document: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

## Context for teaching RSE in Church Schools

All schools are given the flexibility to teach the content of RSE in a way that reflects the context of their school. In Church schools this includes the context of faith, religion and belief. Schools must ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, under which religion or belief are amongst the protected characteristics.

Therefore, it is appropriate to expect the approach to RSE to be shaped by:

- The Church of England's vision for Education
- The school's status as a Church school and its partnership with the linked church/es  
*SIAMS 2023 asks: What is the relationship between the school/trust and local church/es? How do these relationships enhance the school's ability to live out its Christian vision and to live up to its foundation as a Church school, enabling people to flourish*
- The school's own theologically rooted Christian vision which should steer and shape all curriculum design, including that of RSE.

We recognise that there will be some elements of the RSE curriculum which are sensitive and contentious. A range of viewpoints will be held by members within each school and church community and these will need to be taught with care and respect.

Both the Church of England vision for Education and the SIAMS Framework requires schools to establish a strong theologically rooted Christian vision reflective of their unique context. Church schools should be places of hospitality and welcome, where all are treated with dignity and respect. The Church of England's document, 'Valuing All God's Children' summarises this well:

*'A Church school's vision will be a Christian and inclusive vision, where all members of the school community are afforded a sense of their own dignity and worth and the innate dignity of humankind is cherished. Inclusivity and hospitality will be hallmarks of church schools, where everyone is revered and respected as a member of a community where all are known and loved by God.'*

## Policy development

The LDBS has produced a policy template to support school leaders and governors in establishing and reviewing their policy for Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education: <https://ldbs.co.uk/policies-downloads/>

Pupils in both primary and secondary settings may ask difficult questions in relation to the RSE curriculum. Staff should be provided with support and guidance to deal with such questions in line with the school's policy. Some guidance can be found here: <https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/subject-leaders/before-you-start/>



Further support can be provided by the Deputy Director of Education for Christian Distinctiveness.

Supporting documents:

**DfE RSE Guidance Document**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

**Equalities Act 2010**

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents)

**DFE Political Impartiality Guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools/political-impartiality-in-schools>

**SIAMS Framework 2023**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/SIAMS%20Framework%20September%202023.pdf>

**Valuing All God's Children**

Guidance for Church of England schools on challenging homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying)

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/Valuing%20All%20God%27s%20Children%20July%202019\\_0.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/Valuing%20All%20God%27s%20Children%20July%202019_0.pdf)

**Church of England Charter for Faith Sensitive and Inclusive RSHE**

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/RSHE%20Principles%20and%20Charter\\_0.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/RSHE%20Principles%20and%20Charter_0.pdf)

RSE and PSHE Resources which are specifically designed to support schools to share a distinctively Christian viewpoint:

- **Goodness and Mercy**  
Online resource produced by Katy Staples for the Church of England  
<https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/>
- **Heartsmart**  
<https://www.heartsmartv.com/browse>

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