

THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF RSE:

Advice for parents on Relationships & Sex Education (RSE)

The Statutory Instrument or Regulations enforcing the new compulsory subjects of Relationships Education (primary), Relationships & Sex Education (secondary), as well as Health Education, passed into law on 9th May 2019. The associated Statutory Guidance regarding the content and delivery of these subjects was approved and issued on June 26th 2019. **Schools must ‘have regard’ to the Guidance but are not mandated to follow it: i.e. they must ‘take it into account’ but can depart from it where they have ‘clear reasons’.** These RSE Regulations will be mandatory from September 2020. The Department for Education (DfE) also issued a set of ‘myth busting’ FAQs on the subject in March 2019. https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/supporting_documents/RSEPSHEFAQs.pdf

What is the problem with the new Regulations?

The RSE Regulations effect a fundamental change in the relationship of families to the State, since for the first time the State has stepped into the parental role with regard to the teaching of morality and values, and has made mandatory its version of ‘relationships’, and has qualified what before was an absolute right to withdraw your child from ‘sex education’. This absolute right remains in primary education (para 49 Guidance), but has been qualified to become a “request” in secondary education (para 45), and then only ‘up until three terms before the child turns 16’ (para 47). There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education.

The content therefore of the new Regulations involves the teaching of values and beliefs to children that were and have been in a free society, since time immemorial, the province of parents. Parents delegated to schools – ‘in loco parentis’ means ‘in the place of the parent’ – the right to teach their children. International human rights law, first framed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and incorporated into English law in the 1998 Human Rights Act (HRA), has ruled until now that parents could “ensure (their children’s) education and teaching (is) in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions” (HRA 1998, Protocol 1, Article 2). Parents have further had the right to have their “religion or belief” in education respected as a ‘protected characteristic’, as set down in the 2010 Equality Act.

The new Regulations and Statutory Guidance are in conflict with this. They try to marry two objectives: (a) promotion of various forms of relationships, including sexual relations outside of marriage, and in particular what are referred to in the Guidance as ‘LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender] issues’ or ‘LGBT content’ (though this is never specifically defined) — whilst at the same time (b) purporting to uphold the rights of parents as ‘primary educators’ of their children.

The Secretary of State’s foreword to the Guidance (p.4) claims “We are clear that parents and carers are the prime educators for children on many of these matters.” However, this at the outset actually qualifies parental rights and makes the State a potential arbitrator on values to be held by and taught to children. Until now parents had the absolute right to withdraw their children from what used to be known as SRE - Sex and Relationship Education. This is what has given rise to the recent conflicts in schools over this issue. It is a direct result of the Government changing the law, and the reduction of previously clear and absolute rights.

There is no question the Government believes it can dictate both to children and their parents the values they should hold by making RSE almost wholly compulsory, and seeking to enforce an

ideology in contradiction to what many parents, including those of all the major world faiths, believe is in the best interests of their children. Where they wish to enforce LGBT ideology, it is crucial to note that according to the Office of National Statistics (ONS 2017) only 1.9% of the population identify themselves as being LGB. For 'transgender' identification the numbers are so small that they are classed by the ONS as being 'statistically insignificant'. The views of a very small minority are being imposed on ALL school children and by extension ALL parents. This is an assault upon our human rights.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN?

Under the new Regulations there still continue to exist certain 'rights' which parents can call on. Indeed this is vital because schools are effectively being turned by the Government into grooming factories for early and premature sexual experimentation by a) reducing parents' natural role and detaching children from their families in this sensitive area of life, and b) introducing children to sexual and 'LGBT' issues at early stages of their development. These are classic grooming techniques to break down a child's natural modesty and sense of self in order to make him or her open for exploitation.

FACT 1: Sex Ed and LGBT content are NOT compulsory in Primary Schools (para 65)

FACT 2: Right to withdraw children from Sex Ed is ABSOLUTE in Primary Schools (Guidance, para 49)

FACT 3: ALL Schools MUST consult parents before an RSE policy is made (Guidance, paras 13/24/41)

FACT 4: Schools MUST show parents class materials and state when they will be taught (Guidance, paras 13/24/41)

FACT 5: 'Relationships Education' and 'Sex Education' are supposed to be distinct so that parents are able to identify 'sex ed' lessons or elements and withdraw their children (Guidance, para's 45-50) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

Armed with these facts parents can **FIND OUT** what is to be taught in RSE lessons and **TAKE THEIR CHILD OUT** if they are not happy with what is included.

DO NOT ACCEPT ANY SCHOOL SAYING "YOUR CHILD HAS TO LEARN THIS": YOU DECIDE WHEN AND WHAT THEY LEARN. YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD BEST.

It is critical that parents, especially in primary schools, know their rights and combine with other parents to ensure their children are protected. The LGBT/Sex Ed lobbies (Stonewall, Brook, BPAS, etc) who have campaigned for these changes are rich and powerful, and want to be the ones most influencing your children. But it is still possible to use your rights under the law to protect your child's innocence, well-being and faith, and allow them a normal development free from the pressures of these distorting ideologies.

ParentPower can help you with letters, details of the law, and on the spot advocacy and support. Please contact us. Assert your Civil Rights and protect your children.

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