

SRE Curriculum - Frequently Asked Questions

Do you teach children about 'being gay'?

Through our teaching, we will promote the values of respect and tolerance, ensuring that there is no discrimination against any group identified in the Equality Act. Our curriculum provision promotes inclusion and equality for all, so our resources will reflect a range of families and relationships. Our school takes part in LGBT+ History month in February, which celebrates the achievements of those who challenge inequality and embrace diversity. Children learn from an early age what the acronym LGBT represents. We strive to combat homophobic bullying in Anti-Bullying Week during November and celebrate uniqueness with a PRIDE celebration in June. We may also discuss sexuality if, and when it arises in the curriculum for example when discussing the life of Frida Kahlo in art or the contribution of Alan Turing in history.

What do you teach about body changes and puberty?

In Year 4 children will learn how hormonal changes can make our hair greasy, how we can sweat more and how our skin may become prone to spots. The focus is on maintaining good personal hygiene and prepares children for more detailed information about puberty in Year 5.

In Year 5 children will learn about the emotional changes, and physical changes that occur in puberty including growth of pubic hair, what happens when you start your period, and changes that occur in males. They will learn about the male and female internal reproductive organs so that they understand where in the body eggs and sperm originate.

Do you teach children about 'sex'?

The lesson in Year 6 'How babies are made' uses the term **sexual intercourse** and does explain that the man (Zak) will put his penis in the woman's (Nadine's) vagina. However, this part of the lesson is set within the wider context of a series of lessons which is focused on being in a committed, loving relationship and being ready and responsible to start a family.

Can parents withdraw their children from RSE lessons?

From September 2020, parents cannot withdraw their child from Relationships or Health Education, or specific Science lessons, but they may request to withdraw their child from specific Sex Education lessons.

Schools should ensure that **parents know what will be taught and when**, and **clearly communicate** the fact that parents have the **right to request** that their child be withdrawn from some sex education lessons that are delivered as part of statutory SRE.

When such a request is received, the head teacher should discuss this with the parents before making their decision.

The school should respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, except in exceptional circumstances, **up to and until three terms before the child turns 16**.

Why do you teach about FGM?

Many parents will naturally feel uncomfortable about their child learning about FGM in school because of the shocking nature of this practice. FGM has recently become more widely recognised in society affecting a significant proportion of the community. Data from the Greater Manchester Police shows that there are a higher proportion of reported cases in the North West than other areas of the UK. Many girls may not be aware that they are at risk of FGM because it is a taboo subject and not openly discussed in their communities. They may not be aware of what it is called, or that it is illegal. DFE guidance recommends that if this form of abuse is to be stopped, then FGM should be discussed in KS2 in primary schools in order to raise awareness, change attitudes and correct misinformation. It is our duty to keep all children safe. Parents will be informed before this lesson is delivered and if they are concerned, they have the option to request that their child is withdrawn. The lesson is delivered in an age-appropriate way through dramatised scenarios, and focuses on informing young people about FGM, and where to find support if needed.