

# Too much, too young

Exposing primary school  
sex education materials



**WARNING:**

This booklet contains explicit  
material not suitable for children.

WE HAVE CENSORED SOME OF THE IMAGES IN THIS BOOKLET



# Introduction

There are repeated calls for sex education to be made mandatory for all primary schools. **A crucial vote is expected at Report Stage of the Education Bill in the House of Lords.** This booklet uncovers explicit resources already being recommended for primary-aged children by local councils. If sex education is forced on primary schools by a change in the law, we expect the use of these resources to become more widespread.

At a time when there is growing alarm at the sexualisation of childhood, using sexually explicit resources in schools can surely only make things much worse. If sex education is made compulsory for primary schools, the publications highlighted in this report are the kind of materials that will be used with children as young as five. A national curriculum for sex education would see control taken out of the hands of schools and centralised in the hands of those who advocate the use of material which most parents would find unacceptable.

The National Curriculum for Science includes basic biology, such as life cycles and human reproduction. This has been non-controversial. It does not include sex education, as this has been treated separately since 1993. All schools are required to have a policy on sex education. For primary schools, this policy can be that they do not cover sex education topics – sex education is entirely discretionary at primary school level. (In science lessons pupils are simply required to learn about human life cycles.) Secondary schools are required to cover some core aspects of sex education, but under the current system school head teachers and governors have control

over the way they do it and the materials they use. Decisions on controversial matters are therefore made at school level by governors and head teachers.

### **Government under pressure**

Despite this well-established position, the Government is under huge pressure to force all primary schools to teach sex education. At Grand Committee in the Lords on 13 July, Lib Dem Baroness Walmsley, supported by Baroness Massey and other Peers, moved amendments to the Education Bill to make PSHE (including sex education) compulsory for all state schools in England. Much of the discussion revolved around sex education. The amendments would also have covered academies.

Baroness Walmsley argued that the change is essential because PSHE is “so fundamentally important”, going on to claim it is “a fundamental underpinning” for all other curriculum subjects.<sup>1</sup>

The Government resisted her amendments, saying that they would be inconsistent with its move towards a slimmed-down curriculum.<sup>2</sup> It is currently conducting an “internal review” of PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education. The review’s remit says the Government has “no plans to change the law on sex education”.<sup>3</sup>

Campaigning groups strongly support statutory sex education for primary schools. The Sex Education Forum, a body which has produced a resources list including several of the explicit publications in this report, “believes that all children and young people have the right” to sex and relationships education.<sup>4</sup> Simon Blake, chief executive of sexual health charity Brook, has said that it is “vital that sex and relationships education (SRE) becomes compulsory in all schools”.<sup>5</sup> FPA (formerly the Family Planning Association) “believe that SRE should be compulsory within the National Curriculum in both primary and secondary schools”.<sup>6</sup>

Before the General Election, the previous Labour Government proposed as part of its Children, Schools and Families Bill to introduce sex education topics into the National Curriculum for primary schools. Alongside the Bill, it also produced new draft guidance for schools, which included detailed recommendations for sex education teaching to children as young as five.<sup>7</sup> Maintaining this position, the Labour Party sought to amend the Academies Bill in July 2010. The amendment would have made PSHE mandatory in all academies, including academy primaries.

### **Centralising control**

At present primary schools do not have to teach PSHE and so have considerable freedom. Whether they decide to teach sex education or not, primary schools must simply make their policy available to parents.<sup>8</sup> Thanks to the good judgement of teachers we believe the most explicit materials are not being used widely. Perhaps this is why campaigners want sex education centralised – they are not getting what they want when decisions are left to schools. For them, sex education is not explicit enough and does not start early enough. Use of the publications highlighted in this report is not nearly as widespread as the ‘experts’ would like it to be.

*Perhaps this is why campaigners want sex education centralised – they are not getting what they want when decisions are left to schools.*

Making sex education compulsory for schools would mean passing overall control from schools to Whitehall. It would be centralising, bureaucratic and would inevitably lead to the sex education industry, which promotes explicit materials, having much greater influence. Given that officials in local authorities are promoting explicit material for the youngest of school children, surely

control of sex education should remain firmly in the hands of head teachers and school governors.

### **Unsuitable resources**

Any reasonable person reading this publication will see that these resources are simply not suitable for primary-aged children and that today's sex education is quite unlike anything they had at school. Although parents do have the right to withdraw their children from sex education<sup>9</sup>, no child should be exposed to materials of this nature.

The current approach to sex education, which demands ever more explicit sex education at ever younger ages, has wasted hundreds of millions of pounds in taxpayers' money and comprehensively failed to reduce teenage pregnancy and abortion rates. The previous Government showered £300 million on its Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, which expert economist Professor David Paton has called "absolutely disastrous".<sup>10</sup>

It is the coalition Government's overall policy that the National Curriculum should be slimmed down to core subjects. This is not consistent with making sex education a statutory part of the curriculum for the first time. A review of the entire National Curriculum is currently underway and is due to conclude in 2013.<sup>11</sup>

*Today's sex education is quite unlike anything parents had at school.*

In November 2010 Government adviser Tim Oates (Head of Research at the Cambridge Assessment exam board) warned that in recent years pressure groups had been given too much influence over lessons. He argued

that organisations often clamoured to "ensure that subject content which reflects their interest is included in the 'core' content of the National Curriculum – leading to a lack of clarity as to what should legitimately be included, or not included".<sup>12</sup> Indeed, *The Importance of Teaching* White Paper last year said the National Curriculum

“must not become a vehicle for imposing passing political fads on our children”<sup>13</sup>

The present law requires the Secretary of State to “issue guidance designed to secure that when sex education is given to registered pupils...they are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned”<sup>14</sup> But the current guidance issued by the previous Government in 2000 is clearly failing to protect children. It is weak and too easy to evade. The internal review may lead to new guidance. It is vital that there are stronger safeguards in place. An Ofsted report in July 2010 found that schools are rarely consulting parents about sex education, even though the current guidance encourages them to do so.<sup>15</sup>

Peers should reject attempts to force all primary schools to teach sex education and the Government must introduce further safeguards to stop local councils promoting explicit and inappropriate resources.

Parents don't want their children to be exposed to material which sexualises them. Rather than promoting these explicit materials through centralised sex education, action is needed to stop them being used.

October 2011

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# Mummy Laid An Egg

Babette Cole

Recommended  
for **Primary** by:



Healthy Schools  
CORNWALL

**Birmingham City Council**\*

**worcestershire**  
countycouncil



DERBY CITY COUNCIL



East Sussex  
County Council



Brighton & Hove  
City Council

Recommended  
for **5-7 years** by:



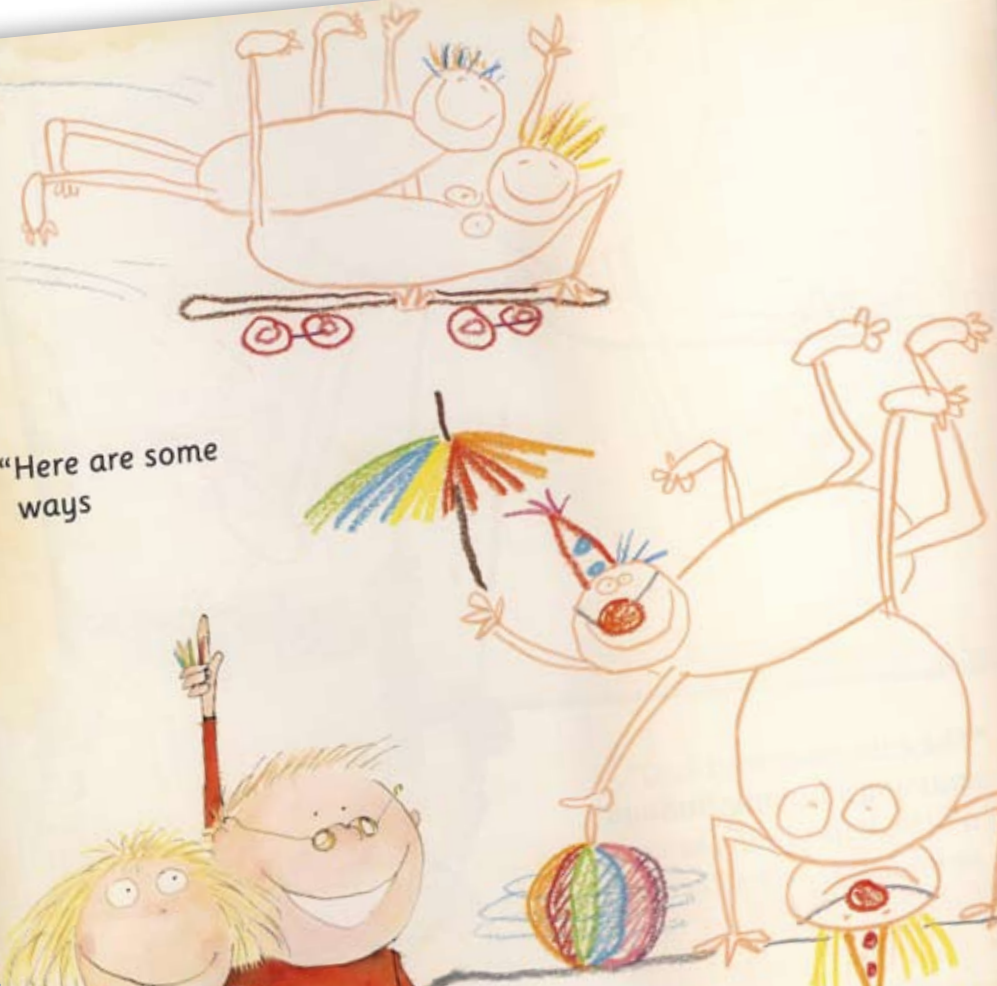
Recommended  
for **8-9 years** by:



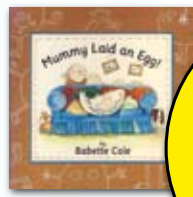
MILTON KEYNES  
COUNCIL

\* Recommended for  
parents to use with their  
children.

"Here are some  
ways







RECOMMENDED  
**5+ years**

Recommended  
for 9-11 years by:



Recommended  
by:



Hampshire  
County Council



# How Did I Begin?

*Mick Manning and Brita Granström*



RECOMMENDED  
**5+ years**

Recommended  
for **Primary** by:



Recommended  
for **7-11 years** by:



Recommended  
for **5-11 years** by:



Recommended  
by:



Recommended  
for **9-10 years** by:



As they cuddled, your  
dad's penis moved gently  
inside your mum's vagina  
and the sperms flowed out.

\* Recommended  
for parents to  
use with their  
children.



# Where Did I Come From?

Peter Mayle



RECOMMENDED

7+ years

Recommended  
for 7-11 years by:



Recommended  
by:



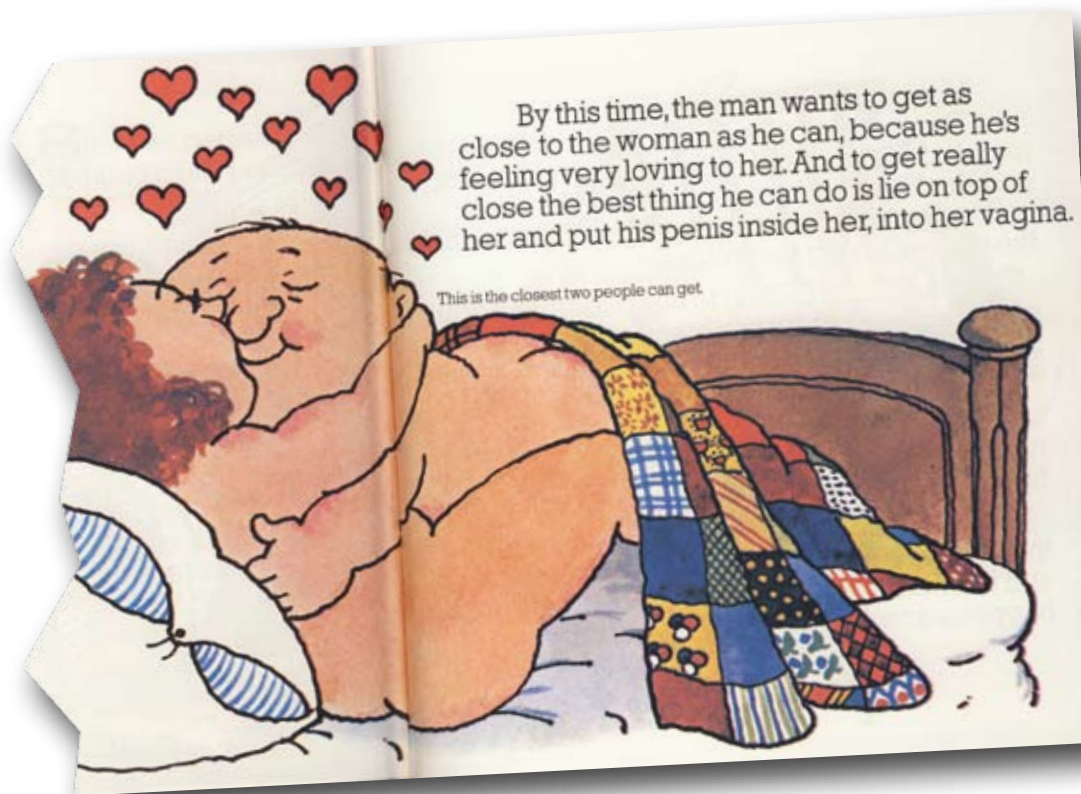
Hampshire  
County Council

Recommended  
for Primary by:



Birmingham City Council\*

\* Recommended for parents to use with their children.



Continued...

## Where Did I Come From? (Continued)



see what the difference

First of all, you'll see that the man has a flat chest. But the woman has two round bumps on her chest.

These bumps have a lot of names. Some people call them the bosom (which you say like this: boozum). Other people call them titties, or boobs. (Don't ask us why.)



RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

the woman loving each other.

It's a difficult feeling to describe, but if you can imagine a gentle tingly sort of tickle that starts in your stomach and spreads all over, that will give you some idea of what it's like.

And as you know, when you're feeling tickly you wriggle about a bit. It's just the same here, except it's a special kind of wriggling.

It's easier to understand when you realize that the parts that tickle most are the man's penis and the woman's vagina. So most of the wriggling happens down there.



Making love is like skipping. You can't do it all day long.

# Primary School Sex and Relationships Education Pack

Recommended for **Primary** by:



## What is it called?

Give children the definition of certain sex-related words and ask them to work out what the words are. You could do this by using the definitions in the glossary of key terms on page 101. You could read them out to the class or write them on to card for small groups to discuss. Discuss with the children any other words they have heard for the same thing. Alternatively you might use diagrams of body parts and ask children about what each of the parts are called. This can be done by using the worksheets on pages 33 to 37. Also discuss what the children know about each of the body parts.

## Match up card game

Use the definitions of key terms in the 'Glossary' on page 101 to make a card game. Put the keywords on one set of cards and the definitions on another set. You can use all the words listed or select which you feel are most appropriate. Children can then play the card game in small groups matching up the words with the definitions. Ask the children about any words they do not understand or any questions they have and discuss these with them. Small groups of children could also use information books and leaflets to make card games to try out on other groups.

Recommended for **5-11 years** by:



Recommended for **Primary-14 years** by:



## Anal intercourse

**Sexual intercourse** where a man puts his penis into another person's anus.

## Anus

The hole at the end of the back passage. When you go to the toilet faeces come out of this hole.

## Bisexual

Someone who is sexually attracted to, and has **sexual relationships** with, both men and women.

## Clitoris

The most sensitive part of a female's **genitals**. It is above the opening to the **vagina** and is about the size of a pea. The clitoris produces feelings of pleasure and excitement when rubbed and becomes stiffer. This is what girls and women do when they **masturbate**.



RECOMMENDED  
**5+ years**

### *Erection*

When a boy's or man's **penis** becomes hard and upright.

### *Homophobia*

Fear of, and prejudice towards, people who are **homosexual**.

### *Homosexual*

Someone who is sexually attracted to, and has **sexual relationships** with, people of the same sex. Homosexual men are often called **gay** men. Homosexual women are often called **lesbians**.

### *Incest*

**Sexual intercourse** between close family members such as a father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister or uncle and niece. Incest is against the law.

### *Lesbian*

A woman who is sexually attracted to, and has **sexual relationships** with, other women.

### *Masturbation*

When people get sexually excited by rubbing their own (or partner's) **genitals**. Boys and men rub their **penis** with their hands, sometimes until they **ejaculate**. Girls and women use their fingers to rub their **clitoris**, sometimes until they have an **orgasm**. A more detailed explanation of masturbation is given on page 71.

### *Oral sex*

Using the mouth and tongue to lick, kiss or suck a partner's **genitals**. Oral sex on a man involves his **penis**. Oral sex on a woman involves her **clitoris**.

### *Orgasm*

The feelings of pleasure at the peak of sexual excitement. People usually orgasm by having **sexual intercourse** with someone or **masturbating**.

### *Prostitute*

A person who is paid money, or in other ways, to have sex with someone else.

# Sex and Relationship Education

## BBC Active

RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

The BBC recommends these materials for 9-11 year-olds.

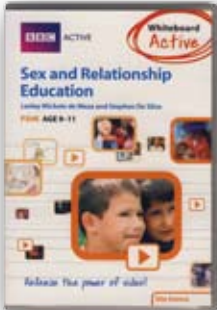
Recommended for **Primary** by:



Recommended for **7-11 years** by:



Recommended for **9-11 years** by:



More video stills:



A boy's penis is very sensitive to touch. Sometimes he may want to touch it and massage it. That's called masturbation and it's quite natural.

A girl's genitals, especially the clitoris, are also very sensitive to touch. A girl may want to touch and stroke her genitals because it feels good. Just like the boys, this is called masturbation and it's quite natural.

Sometimes, when people love each other they want to share these special touches.

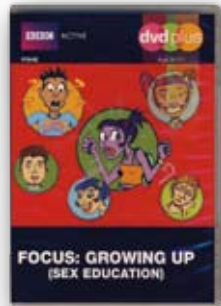


# Focus: Growing Up

BBC Active

RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

The BBC recommends these materials for 9-11 year-olds.



## More video stills:



# Let's Talk About Where Babies Come From *Robie H. Harris*



RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

Recommended for **Primary** by:



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Recommended for **7+ years** by:



Recommended for **7-11 years** by:



Recommended for **8-12 years** by:



Healthy Schools  
CORNWALL



Recommended for **9-11 years** by:



Recommended by:



Hampshire  
County Council

\* Recommended for parents to use with their children.



# Let's Talk About Sex

Robie H. Harris



RECOMMENDED  
**7+ years**

Recommended  
for **7-14 years** by:



Recommended  
for **10+ years** by:



SWINDON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Healthy Schools  
CORNWALL

Recommended  
for **10+ years** by:



Recommended  
by:



Hampshire  
County Council

## 5 Straight and Gay Heterosexuality and Homosexuality



Straight and gay are the two types of relationships that have to do with...

Dreaming about or having a crush on a person of the same sex also does not necessarily mean that a girl or a boy is or will be homosexual.

Some people disapprove of gay men and lesbian women. Some even hate homosexuals just because they are homosexual. People may feel this way towards homosexuals because they think homosexuals are different from

homosexual relationship... two females is also...

Sometimes as children are growing up, boys become curious about other boys, and girls become curious about other girls. They may look at and even touch each other's bodies. This is a normal kind of exploring and does not have anything to do with whether a girl or a boy is or will be heterosexual or homosexual.

them or that gay relationships are wrong. Usually these people know little or nothing about homosexuals, and their views are often based on fears or misinformation, not on facts. People are often afraid of things they know little or nothing about. Some people are sexually

# All About Us: Living and Growing

## Channel 4

Recommended for **Primary** by:



Unit 1  
RECOMMENDED  
**5-7 years\***

"All females have two special parts. They have a clitoris which feels like a small bump, and doesn't stick out much."  
"It grows hard now and then – it's a nice feeling".



Unit 1  
RECOMMENDED  
**5-7 years\***

Naming body parts

Label the body parts on the male and female figures.

- feet
- fingers
- hands
- vagina
- mouth
- thumbs
- penis
- eyes
- tummy
- legs
- arms
- knees
- clitoris**

Are there any other parts you can add?

Activity Sheet 4 Differences



RECOMMENDED  
**Primary  
Schools**



More video stills:

Unit 2  
RECOMMENDED  
**7-9 years\***



Unit 3  
RECOMMENDED  
**9-11 years\***

\* **Milton Keynes Council** recommends Unit 1 for children aged 8-9 and Units 2 and 3 for 9-10 year-olds. **Sheffield City Council** suggests using Unit 1 with children aged 5-7 and using Units 2 and 3 with 7-11 year-olds. **Leicestershire County Council** recommends Unit 2 for children aged 9-11 but does not recommend Unit 3 for Primary. **Westminster City Council** recommends Unit 1 for children aged 5-9 and Units 2 and 3 for 9-11 year-olds. **All other Councils and Authorities** follow the materials' guidelines for ages (stated in the yellow circles).

# What's Happening To Me? (Boys)

Alex Frith



RECOMMENDED  
**8+ years**

Recommended  
for 8-12 years by:



\* Recommended for parents to use with their children.

Recommended  
for 9-10 years by:



This new phase of life is called puberty, and it's mostly to do with sex. Sex is the way people make babies. Sex

## The messy truth

For a baby to start, a sperm from a man's body has to meet and join together with an ovum (egg) in a woman's body. This can happen when a woman and a man have sex. Here's how it works.

First, the man and woman get ready for sex, usually by kissing and cuddling each other – often called foreplay.

This helps make the man's penis grow hard and stick up and away from his body. It may also make the woman's vagina release some slippery fluid.

The vagina is a tube inside a woman's body with its opening between her legs. When it is wet, the man's hard penis can fit inside it.

Sperm

Then the

Once their bodies have started producing semen, boys can make themselves ejaculate by rubbing their penis up and down. This is called masturbation. It's a natural thing to do, and some boys do it quite often and some boys never do. The feeling you get when semen squirts out is called an orgasm (also called "coming"), and it happens when the muscles in your penis contract. Sometimes this makes the semen squirt out quite far; other times it just oozes out.



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NSORED BY T  
NSORED BY

# What's Happening To Me? (Girls)

*Susan Meredith*



RECOMMENDED

**8+ years**

Recommended  
for **8-12 years** by:



\* Recommended for parents to use with their children.

Recommended  
for **9-10 years** by:



As you get older, it's only natural to start feeling sexually attracted to other people. You might even fantasize about someone you fancy. But don't worry – that's a safe way of exploring your emotions. And touching your genitals because it feels good (called masturbation) is natural too. Masturbating might end in an orgasm (often called "coming") – this is a fluttery, shuddery feeling in your genitals that can make your whole body feel relaxed.

The age when people start dating varies...

For a man's penis to fit inside a woman's vagina during sex, it first has to swell, get hard and point upwards. This is called an erection and it happens when extra blood flows into the penis.





# Extracts from Education Act 1996

## **Section 403 Sex education: manner of provision**

- (1) The governing body and head teacher shall take such steps as are reasonable practicable to secure that where sex education is given to any registered pupils at a maintained school, it is given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.
- (1A) The Secretary of State must issue guidance designed to secure that when sex education is given to registered pupils at maintained schools—
  - (a) they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children, and
  - (b) they are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned.
- (1B) In discharging their functions under subsection (1) governing bodies and head teachers must have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance.

## **Section 405 Exemption from sex education**

If the parent of any pupil in attendance at a maintained school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupil shall, except so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum, be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.

## **Key points from statutory guidance**

The current guidance from the Secretary of State on sex education was issued in July 2000 (DfEE 0116/2000).

The guidance says that pupils should learn “the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay”. (page 5)

The guidance reiterates the importance of suitable materials being used: “Inappropriate images should not be used nor should explicit material not directly related to explanation. Schools should ensure that pupils are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age and cultural background of the pupils concerned.” (page 8, para. 1.8)

It states that when developing their sex education policy schools should consult parents: “Schools should always work in partnership with parents, consulting them regularly on the content of sex and relationship education programmes.” (page 26, para. 5.6)

# References

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- <sup>2</sup> Lord Hill of Oareford, House of Lords, Hansard, 13 July 2011, cols GC 360-362
- <sup>3</sup> *Review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education*, Department for Education, July 2011, section 5.1
- <sup>4</sup> Sex Education Forum, *Briefing for Parliamentarians: Children, Schools and Families Bill*, December 2009
- <sup>5</sup> *Press Association National Newswire*, 23 July 2010
- <sup>6</sup> FPA, *Policy Statement: Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)*, January 2011
- <sup>7</sup> DCSF, *Draft – Consultation Document: Sex and Relationships Education Guidance to Schools*, January 2010, see, for example, page 31
- <sup>8</sup> Education Act 1996, Section 404
- <sup>9</sup> Education Act 1996, Section 405
- <sup>10</sup> David Paton, Professor of Industrial Economics at Nottingham University Business School, has pointed to statistical evidence showing that since the Strategy began diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections have increased, while the rate of decline in pregnancy rates has slowed. See *Children and Young People Now*, 18 March 2009; *Daily Mail*, 27 February 2009
- <sup>11</sup> Department for Education Press Release, *National Curriculum Review Launched*, 20 January 2011
- <sup>12</sup> Oates, T, *Could Do Better: Using International Comparisons to Refine the National Curriculum in England*, University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, 18 November 2010; *The Telegraph Online*, 18 November 2010, see <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/8143429/Schools-overloaded-by-curriculum-reforms-says-exam-chief.html> as at 22 September 2011
- <sup>13</sup> *The Importance of Teaching*, Department for Education, November 2010, page 41, para. 4.7
- <sup>14</sup> Education Act 1996, Section 403 (1A)
- <sup>15</sup> *Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education in Schools*, Ofsted, July 2010, page 6

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# Too much, too young

## Exposing primary school sex education materials

There are repeated calls for sex education to be made mandatory for all primary schools. A crucial vote is expected at Report Stage of the Education Bill in the House of Lords. This booklet uncovers explicit resources already being recommended for primary-aged children by local councils. If sex education is forced on primary schools by a change in the law, we expect the use of these resources to become more widespread.

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