

# Too much, too young

WHY PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
SHOULD NOT BE FORCED  
TO TEACH SEX EDUCATION



**WARNING**

This booklet contains explicit  
material not suitable for children

WE HAVE CENSORED SOME OF THE IMAGES INSIDE



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# Contents

5	Introduction
10	Materials being recommended
26	Extract from Education Act 1996
27	Key points from statutory guidance
28	Tips for action for parents
31	References



# Introduction

**The Education Secretary is reviewing the Government's policy on sex education amid increasing demands for the subject to be made mandatory for all primary schools. This booklet uncovers explicit resources already being recommended for primary-aged children by local councils and others. 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 children, 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.

## **CURRENT LAW**

At present sex education is entirely discretionary at primary school level. Though all schools are required to have a policy on sex education, for primary schools their policy can be that they do not cover sex education topics. The National Curriculum for Science includes basic biology, such as life cycles and human reproduction. This has been noncontroversial. It does not include sex education, as this has been treated separately since 1993. (In science lessons pupils are simply required to learn about "reproduction in some plants and animals".)<sup>1</sup>

Maintained secondary schools are required to teach sex education. The Department for Education has said that it expects the same from secondary academies, including free schools. However, head teachers and governors in secondary schools retain control over the way they teach sex education and the materials they use. Decisions on controversial matters are therefore made at school level by governors and head teachers.

Although the law refers to “sex education”, in practice the subject is often called “sex and relationships education” (SRE). Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) includes sex education. When most lobby groups talk about making PSHE compulsory they are trying to impose their sex education agenda on schools.

## **GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESSURE**

Despite the well-established legal framework, the Government is under huge pressure to force all primary schools to teach sex education. Education Secretary Justine Greening told MPs in September 2016 that the Government’s policy on PSHE is in her “in-tray”, saying “I think it is time that we looked to how we can do a better job”.<sup>2</sup> In October 2016, Education Minister Edward Timpson said that the Government is “considering all the options”.<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 many of the explicit publications in this report, “believes that all children and young people have a right” to sex and relationships education.<sup>4</sup> The head of the Sex Education Forum, Lucy Emmerson, has called for the Government to take “bold action to implement statutory SRE and PSHE in all primary and secondary schools”.<sup>5</sup> FPA (the Family Planning Association) “believe that SRE should be compulsory within the National Curriculum in both primary and secondary schools”.<sup>6</sup>

Pressure has also come from within Parliament. In January 2014 the Labour Party pushed for an amendment to introduce statutory sex education for all children from the age of five and to

restrict the parental right of withdrawal to children aged under 15. This amendment was defeated by the then coalition Government. A number of Private Members' Bills with similar aims have been tabled over the past few years, but none of them has gained sufficient support to proceed through the House of Commons.

In February 2015 the Commons Education Select Committee called for "age-appropriate PSHE and RSE as statutory subjects in primary and secondary schools".

In their manifestos for the 2015 General Election, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party all promised to introduce "compulsory" sex education for schools if elected to Government. It is not clear where this would leave the current parental right of withdrawal.

## **RESIST 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 on their website. 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. For example, Lynnette Smith of sex education provider 'Big Talk Education' has said that lessons should start "in nursery".<sup>7</sup> Those who advocate for more sex education at a younger age would like to see the publications highlighted in this report used more widely.

*“ 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

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

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, 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, is morally wrong and it is not evidence-based. As Professor David

Paton has explained: "There is no evidence to date that the lack of a statutory curriculum for SRE in secondary schools contributes to adverse sexual health amongst adolescents." He also said that, "it is noteworthy that recent reductions in teenage pregnancy have been achieved without implementing policy changes such as statutory SRE".<sup>8</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".



## **PARENTS MUST BE CONSULTED**

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. It seems that the situation has not improved since then. In fact, Ofsted's most recent report on sex education makes no mention of consulting parents at all.<sup>9</sup>

The role of parents must be supported. This is obviously in the best interests of children. Research shows that increased parental input in teenagers' lives can lead to lower rates of unprotected sexual intercourse<sup>10</sup> and increase the age at which they first have sexual intercourse.<sup>11</sup>

Parents are the experts – they know their children best and in law bear the primary responsibility for them. As human rights law recognises, it is the job of the family, not the state to decide on the values to be passed on to children. The state should be encouraging parents in their role, strengthening their hand, not undermining it.

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.

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# MUMMY LAID AN EGG!

| **BABETTE COLE**

RECOMMENDED  
FOR CHILDREN

**5+ YEARS**

Recommended  
for **Primary** by:



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



Recommended  
for **6-7 years** by:

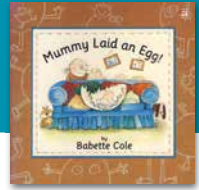


Recommended  
for **6+ years** by:



"Here are some  
ways





Recommended  
for 7-11 years by:



Recommended  
by:



# HOW DID I BEGIN?

| MICK MANNING AND BRITA GRANSTRÖM



RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN

5+ YEARS

Recommended for Primary by:



Recommended by:



Recommended for 5-7 years by:



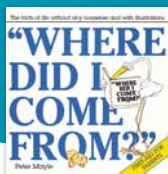
Healthy Schools  
CORNWALL

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



# WHERE DID I COME FROM?

| PETER MAYLE



RECOMMENDED  
FOR CHILDREN

7+ YEARS

Recommended  
by:

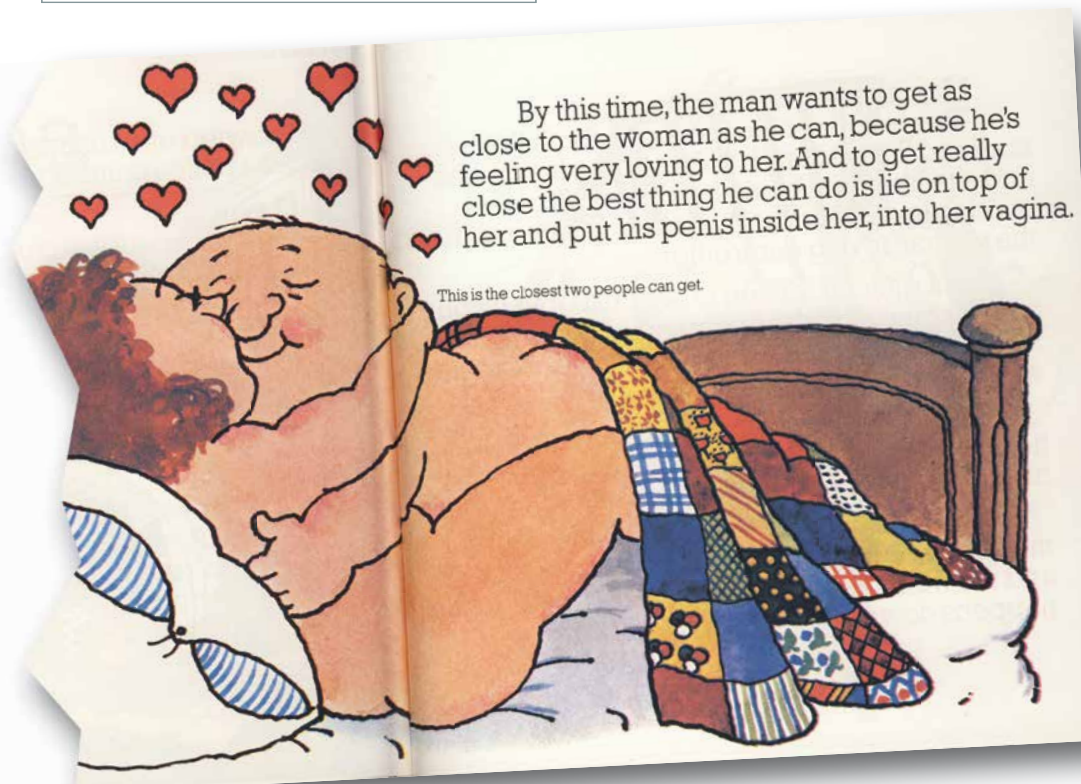


Hampshire  
County Council



Sheffield

(Until Summer 2016)



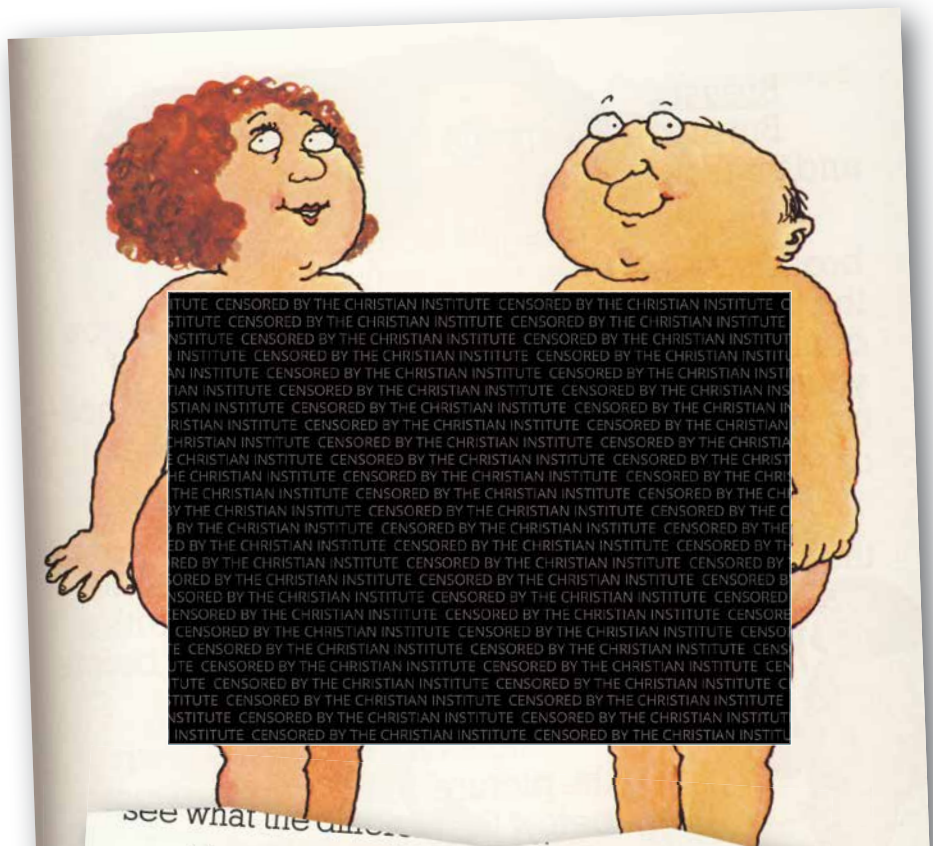
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# WHERE DID I COME FROM? *(Continued)*

| PETER MAYLE

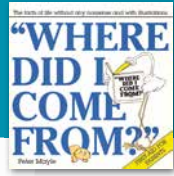
RECOMMENDED  
FOR CHILDREN

7+ YEARS



see what the difference is.  
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.)



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 & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION PACK | HIT/HEALTHWISE

RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN **7+ YEARS**

Recommended for **Primary** by:



Recommended for **7-11 years** 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 their own card games to try out on other groups.



## 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.

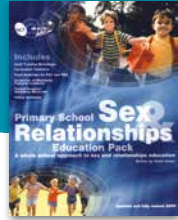
## Bisexual

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**.





### **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 FOR CHILDREN **9+ YEARS**

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

Recommended for Primary by:



Healthy Schools  
CORNWALL



Healthy Schools  
CUMBRIA

Recommended for 10-11 years by:

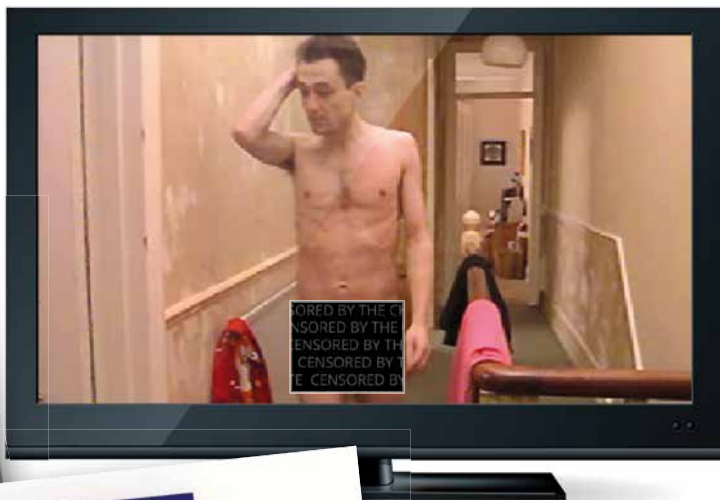
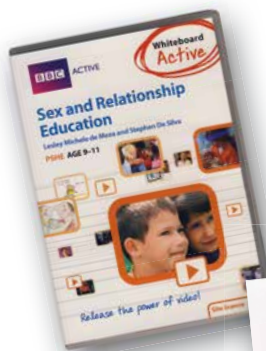
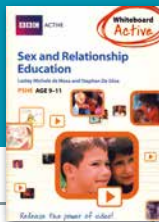


Recommended for 9-11 years by:

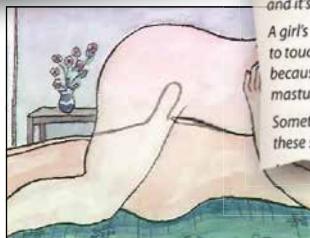
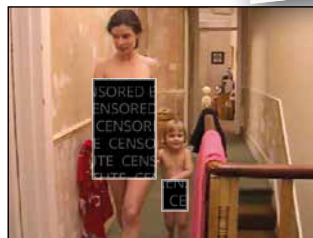


HEALTHY SCHOOLS  
LONDON

London Borough of  
**Redbridge**



More video stills:



...y'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 FOR CHILDREN **9+ YEARS**



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

Recommended by:



Sheffield

(Until Summer 2016)

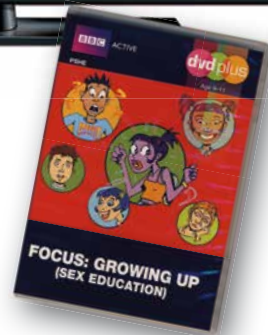


BBC computer generated image of an erect penis

More video stills:

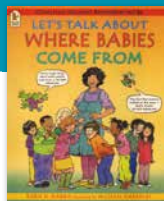


BBC computer generated image of a penis penetrating a vagina



# LET'S TALK ABOUT WHERE BABIES COME FROM | ROBIE H. HARRIS

RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN **7+ YEARS**



Recommended for 7+ years by:



Recommended for 8+ years by:



Healthy Schools  
CORNWALL

East Sussex  
County Council



Brighton & Hove  
City Council



Healthy Schools  
SWINDON

Recommended for 9-11 years by:



HEALTHY SCHOOLS  
LONDON

Recommended by:

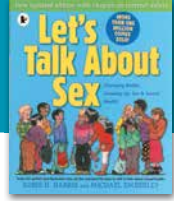


Hampshire  
County Council



# LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

| ROBIE H. HARRIS



RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN **8+ YEARS**

Recommended for 10+ years by:



Recommended for 8-12 years by:



Recommended by:



## 5 Straight and Gay Heterosexuality and Homosexuality



Straight and gay are two words that have to do with sex.

A gay or homosexual person is someone who is sexually attracted to people of the same sex.

A homosexual relationship is a relationship between two people of the same sex. A relationship between two females is also a homosexual relationship.

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.

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

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 CHILDREN IN

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

Recommended for **Primary** by:



HEALTHY SCHOOLS LONDON

Leicestershire

healthyschools



London Borough of **Redbridge**



**North Yorkshire** County Council



**Brighton & Hove** City Council



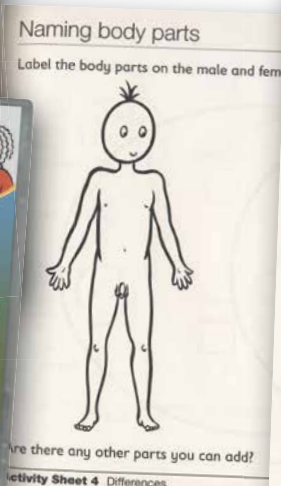
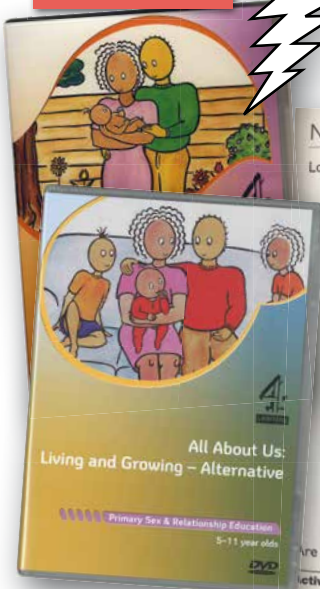
**Healthy Schools** SWINDON

**Unit 1**

RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN **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".



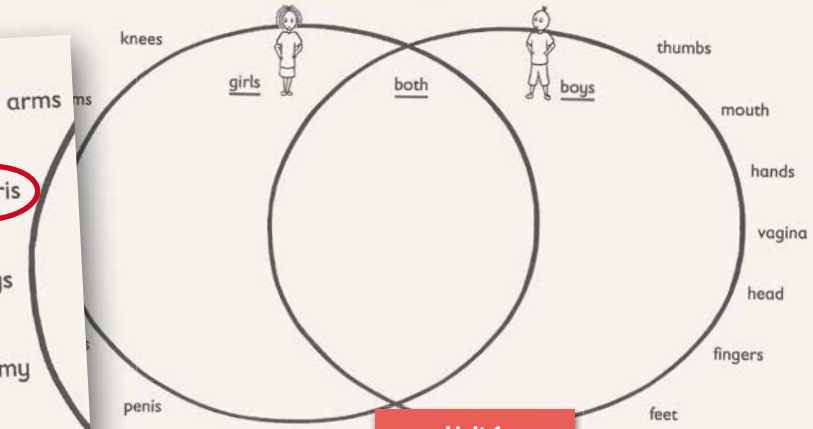


**Unit 3**  
**RECOMMENDED**  
**FOR CHILDREN**  
**7-11 years**

Same but different

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the chart using the words around the outside.



arms  
 legs  
 tummy  
 eyes

**clitoris**

any more things you can add?  
 Differences

**Unit 1**  
**RECOMMENDED**  
**FOR CHILDREN**  
**5-7 years**

Living and Growing Unit 1 © 4 Workless Limited 2002

# WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? (BOYS)

| ALEX FRITH

RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN **8+ YEARS**



Recommended for 8+ years by:



Recommended for 9+ 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 sperm have a lot of wet

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.





# WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? (GIRLS)

| SUSAN MEREDITH

RECOMMENDED  
FOR CHILDREN

8+ YEARS



Recommended  
for 8+ years by:



Recommended  
for 9+ 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 want to start dating varies just

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.

# Extract from Education Act 1996

## **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)

# Tips for action for parents

## 1. VIEW THE MATERIALS

The first step is to find out what materials and schemes of work your child's school is using.

We would strongly recommend that you approach the school and ask to see the materials which they use. Most schools are willing to provide the information. If for some reason they are not, you can make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

When looking at the materials, take time to look through them in detail. What values do they promote? Are there role plays or group activities which you would not want your child taking part in? Pay particular attention to DVDs they could be shown. There may be visual images which are obviously unsuitable.

Find out who is going to take the lessons. Will it be their teacher or someone else? If it is not the teacher, find out who and which body they represent. Frequently outside groups, such as health authorities, are working in schools. So often these groups can lack judgement about what is appropriate.

## 2. MEET WITH THE HEAD TEACHER

If you have concerns about what your child will be taught you can raise these with the head teacher of the school.

Meeting face to face is a tremendously useful way to convey your views. Here are some top tips:

- *Always remember to be gentle and polite, but firm.*

- *Be prepared before you go. Have a few simple points in your mind that you want to put to them. You can write the points down (or better still, type them up) and hand the points to them at the end of the meeting.*

### **3. WITHDRAWING YOUR CHILD**

If you have tried raising your concerns with the school but find that you cannot reach an acceptable conclusion as to how sex education is taught, then it may be now that you decide to withdraw your child from sex education lessons.

Children can be withdrawn from all parts of sex education. (This will not include science lessons on human life cycles, which are part of the current primary National Curriculum.) See Section 405 of the Education Act 1996.

If you do decide to go ahead with this, your child's school ought to have systems in place to make other arrangements for them. This is, of course, a last resort but it may well be the only one you feel is available to you.

### **4. SPEAK WITH PARENT GOVERNORS**

The governors of a school have ultimate responsibility for sex education in England. The school's annual report will list the school governors. Get in touch with the elected parent governors and let them know your views. You can always stand as a parent governor yourself at the next elections.

### **5. TALK TO OTHER PARENTS**

It is important to remember that you will not be alone in your concerns about your child's welfare. The likelihood is, if you have worries about some of the materials, others will too.

You will find that many parents will become concerned about this issue if they get to know what is actually going on. It may simply be that they do not know what the school is teaching. A group of parents working together can be hugely influential.

## 6. CONTACT YOUR MP, LOCAL COUNCILLORS AND THE LOCAL PRESS

If the school does not appear to be responding to your concerns you should write to your local MP. You can send letters to them at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Find out who they are – go to the Parliament website [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) or visit [christian.org.uk/mpvotes](http://christian.org.uk/mpvotes)

You might also wish to contact your local councillors (who may be surprisingly sympathetic).

Perhaps you have never met with your elected representatives before; you could go and see them at a constituency or ward surgery. Here are some top tips:

- *Be calm.*
- *Be prepared before you go. Have a few simple points to put across, and if you can, show some examples of the materials you are concerned about.*
- *You might want to go as a small group, especially if there are other parents who are equally troubled.*

Consider writing a letter to the local press. Your letter should be reasonable and temperate, emphasising that you are concerned about the sex education materials being used at your child's primary school. If you have not been able to reach an acceptable conclusion with your child's school, say so.

## 7. STATUTORY COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Parents should first raise any concerns informally with their child's class teacher and then with the head teacher. If matters are still unresolved parents should ask the school for a copy of its formal complaints procedure. All state-funded schools are required to have a procedure to deal with any complaints relating to the school. Initially this usually involves a written complaint to the head teacher, then the school governing body, and ultimately to the Secretary of State.

# References

## INTRODUCTION REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> *Science Programmes of Study: Key Stages 1 and 2: National Curriculum in England*, Department for Education, September 2013, page 27
- <sup>2</sup> Oral evidence to House of Commons Education Select Committee, 14 September 2016
- <sup>3</sup> House of Commons Written Answers, 13 October 2016, wa 47788
- <sup>4</sup> Sex Education Forum statement, *SRE in primary schools*, November 2011, see <http://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/policy-campaigns/statement-by-sex-education-forum-on-teaching-of-sre-in-primary-schools.aspx> as at 11 October 2016
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# Too much, too young

## WHY PRIMARY SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO TEACH SEX EDUCATION

There are repeated calls for all primary schools to be compelled to teach sex education. At the same time the Government is reviewing its policy on sex education.

This booklet uncovers explicit resources that have already been recommended for primary-aged children by local councils and others. If sex education is forced on primary schools by a change in the law, we expect the use of such resources to become more widespread.

Under the present law primary schools do not have to teach sex education and so have considerable freedom. Thanks to the good judgement of teachers we believe the most explicit materials are not being used widely. Perhaps this is why campaigners want the teaching of sex education to be centralised – they are not getting what they want when decisions are left to schools.

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.

