



In September 2020, the Government released further guidance for schools

This new guidance doesn't change anything in our publication 'Relationships and Sex Education: A guide for Christian parents in England'. The Government guidance already quoted in this booklet still stands. But the additional guidance does make statements which will be extremely helpful for parents to quote in some circumstances. We've reproduced statements from the two guidance documents here. You can read them in full on the Department for Education website:

1 **Guidance: Teaching about relationships, sex and health: Support and training materials for schools to help train teachers on relationships, sex and health education.**

➤ See bit.ly/RSE-teaching

2 **Guidance: Plan your relationships, sex and health curriculum: Information to help school leaders plan, develop and implement the new statutory curriculum.**

➤ See bit.ly/RSE-planning

The additional guidance makes it even clearer that schools must not push just one perspective in their teaching, including on 'equalities issues' and 'religion' (this includes making statements critical of religious perspectives) and that what is taught should be based in evidence, not ideology. It makes some strong statements on the use of external agencies. The strongest comments are related to the promotion of transgender ideology in schools. There are also helpful statements on the importance of informing parents and respecting their wishes, and facilitating the right of withdrawal from sex education. There is greater insistence on protecting children from viewing pornography and avoiding over-sexualised content.

Balance (see **section 3** and **page 26** of our guide)

1 "...[schools] must... secure that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views... the meaning of political issues does not refer solely to the discussion of party politics... political views... may include... equalities issues, religion..."

2 "You might also consider activities that support teachers to reflect on their own values around the subject and consider ways to present an unbiased and evidence-based curriculum to pupils."

2 "You should assess all resources carefully to ensure they are age appropriate... and are in line with your school's legal duties in relation to impartiality... When deciding if a resource is suitable, you should consider if it... is evidence-based and contains robust facts and statistics."

➤ There is robust evidence about the benefits of marriage, for example in the recent report from the Centre for Social Justice, *Family Structure Still Matters*, which is available online. Schools must be sensitive in how they address this, but they are required by law to teach about the importance of marriage in these new subjects (see **page 5** of our guide).

External agencies

“It is important when using external agencies to take particular care that the agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with your school’s legal duties regarding political impartiality.” 2

“You should exercise extreme caution when working with external agencies and proceed only if you have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses.” 2

Transgender ideology *(see p19 of our guide)*

“You should not reinforce harmful stereotypes, for instance by suggesting that children might be a different gender based on their personality and interests or the clothes they prefer to wear.” 2

“...teachers should not suggest to a child that their non-compliance with gender stereotypes means that either their personality or their body is wrong and in need of changing...” 2

“Materials which suggest that non-conformity to gender stereotypes should be seen as synonymous with having a different gender identity should not be used and you should not work with external agencies or organisations that produce such material.” 2

Respecting parents’ views

(see pages 14, 26 and 27 of our guide)

“When planning their curriculum, state-funded schools should be mindful of the requirement under the Human Rights Act 1998 to respect the right of parents to ensure education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.” 1

Sexualised teaching materials

(see pages 17-18 and 27 of our guide)

“Particularly at Primary level, you should be careful not to expose children to over-sexualised content.” 2

“Ensure that resources do not exhibit any content that may provoke distress.” 2

“Great caution should be exercised before setting any assignment, in class or at home, that involves researching a subject where there is a high risk that a child could accidentally be exposed to age inappropriate material, such as pornography.” 2

Right of withdrawal from sex education

(see pages 21 and 22 of our guide)

“You must also be aware of the parental right of withdrawal at primary. You should make it clear to parents and carers in your policy and set out a practical method for them to communicate to school if this is their wish.” 2

“Stating clearly exactly what aspects of sex education are covered in what terms and years is helpful to allow parents and carers to make this decision. Parents and carers cannot withdraw their child from relationships education, health education [or] national curriculum science.” 2

Relationships and Sex Education

A guide for Christian parents in England

The law on sex education in schools in England changed in September 2020. This applies to all schools, state-funded and fee-paying.

Read our guide now:
[the.ci/RSE-guide](https://www.the.ci/RSE-guide)

