



Will my child be taught Sex Education at Primary School?

Sex Education at Primary school is not compulsory. At Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School, we currently teach Sex Education to all children in Year 5 and Year 6, which is delivered by an external partner, HH Kids (Happy, Healthy Kids). Before these lessons take place, parents have the opportunity to attend an awareness session, to understand what will be taught and how it will be approached, and view any materials that we propose to use. For this academic year, the parental awareness session will be held on 12th January 2022 2:15pm-3:15pm. If you continue to have concerns after this session, you have the right to withdraw from any Sex Education lessons that go beyond that of the Science National Curriculum.

What is the Science National Curriculum (statutory content)?

The statutory content requires schools to teach children about human development, including puberty, and reproduction.

In Key Stage 1, pupils will be introduced to the process of reproduction and growth in animals including humans. They are introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth, but not **how** reproduction occurs in humans. More specifically, Year 1 pupils identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense. Year 2 pupils notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which change as they grow into adults.

Key Stage 2, pupils will be taught about different types of reproduction, including sexual and asexual reproduction in plants and sexual reproduction in animals. Pupils should draw a timeline to indicate stages in the growth and development of humans. They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty. More specifically, Year 5 pupils describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals, including humans and describe the changes as humans develop to old age. Year 6 continue to recognise changes in humans and know that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

In Year 5, what does 'describe the changes as humans develop' entail?

At Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School, we have chosen to teach these puberty sessions in separate genders so children feel more comfortable learning about their own bodies and how they may have started, or will start, to change. These lessons include some of the physical body changes as boys/girls approach puberty; different feelings as young people go through puberty and how to deal with them positively; the need for good personal hygiene and how to wash properly. For girls, this also includes the menstrual cycle and the different products available, where they are kept in school, how to use them and who to speak to.

In Year 6, what does 'continue to recognise changes in humans' entail?

At Bedford Hall Methodist Primary School, we have chosen to teach these puberty sessions in separate genders so children feel more comfortable learning about their own bodies and how they may have started, or will start, to change. These lessons include the physical and emotional changes during puberty and how the male and female reproductive systems work. Boys will learn about male bodily functions, testicular awareness and personal hygiene. Girls will learn about the menstrual cycle, sanitary products and breast development.

What is the non-statutory content delivered in Year 6?

In Year 6, boys and girls will learn together about conception and pregnancy. This session is delivered by an external partner, HH Kids, and the approach and lesson content is shared with parents beforehand at the Year 5/6 awareness session (This year's will be held on 12th January 2022 at 2:15pm-3:15pm). As this is not statutory, you have the right to withdraw your child from the conception and pregnancy session if you wish to do so. Please do this by emailing school FAO Miss Whittaker.

What is the purpose of delivering non-statutory Sex Education content at Primary School?

RSE aims to contribute to behaviour change, including reducing unprotected and unwanted sex, and reducing harmful behaviour, including sexual offences such as assault and abuse. Good quality RSE also fulfills children and young people's right to information about their bodies and health.

Does Sex Education work? What's the evidence?

Those receiving good quality RSE are more likely to:

- Delay their first sexual experience
- Sexual experiences when they do happen are wanted and protected
- Have fewer sexual partners

Economic and Social Research Council. March 2015. Further reading can be found [here](#).

Is school the best place for discussions about Sex and Relationships?

If children do not get the correct and accurate information about sex and relationships from a reliable source, they will find the information from other sources (friends, older siblings, websites, TV) which may not be true or age appropriate. The information gathered during the Government consultation found that most children wanted this information and discussion to be provided in school with their teachers so that they could ask their questions in a safe space, and have them answered in an age-appropriate way.

Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?

In a Primary School, you have the right to withdraw from any Sex Education lessons that go beyond that of the Science National Curriculum (At Bedford Hall, this is only the Year 6 Conception and Pregnancy lesson). There is no right to withdraw from Relationships

Education at Primary or Secondary school as the contents of these subjects – such as families and love, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?

The Government undertook a wide public consultation which involved discussions with over 90 organisations, as well as the public consultation on the draft regulations and guidance. This has informed the key decisions on these subjects.

Will Relationships lessons promote LGBT+ relationships?

No - lessons do not 'promote' anything, they educate. We are teaching about equality and demonstrating our school ethos that epitomises the need to be respectful of **everyone** and to value ourselves and **all** others: this means that anyone, from any minority group will always be welcome and respected here. Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up and the wider society that they may not otherwise be exposed to, to enable them to understand the diverse nature of our world. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law. In our school the teaching of LGBT+ will be delivered through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents. All our planned learning will be taught in an age appropriate way and usually through books.

How will we know what is being taught so I can talk to my child about it at home?

Parents will be given opportunities to attend different meetings to understand how the curriculum is being planned to be taught. As the curriculum planning develops parents will have the opportunity to look at materials that will be used. At the beginning of each year there will be an opportunity to discuss with the class teacher the year's curriculum through our curriculum meetings. Each half term, parents will have access via the school website which will summarise what is being taught and again at the end of the half term, evidence of that teaching taking place. If you need to discuss this further, teachers will be happy to discuss this with you or signpost other resources that can be used at home to support discussions.

Will Relationships and Sex Education prompt my children to ask challenging questions?

Possibly - your child or children trust you and will be likely to ask you questions to test your beliefs and opinions. Please don't avoid them, talk openly about diversity and equality.

Are primary children too young to be taught about people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transsexual?

Some children grow up in families with LGBT+ parents, carers or siblings. We can't say to a child who has two dads, 'You can't talk about your family!' in the same way we wouldn't do this for a child with one parent, or with a blended family. We want all of our children to know that there is no such thing as a 'normal' family as all families are special and unique,

and all families are accepted, welcomed and loved equally, just as our children are. Just like with racism, school has a duty of care to challenge any language that may cause offence to others, whether used intentionally or not. Phrases such as “that’s so gay” or “you big girl” when used in a derogatory manner may unintentionally cause offence to a child or adult and will not be tolerated in school. We will challenge this language if it is used by children, parents or visitors.

My religion says that being gay or transsexual is wrong, so why are you teaching about different sexuality choices?

We are teaching about equality - being proud to be you, being proud of your family. We teach that being LGBT+ is not a choice – it is who that person is. We understand and respect all faiths and we recognise the tension that it can present; however, we are teaching children not to be afraid of difference but to celebrate and learn from it. As a parent it is your right to talk to your child about your beliefs but in school we build our curriculum around UK law. We are teaching children that all people and relationships are equal. Any discussion or resources used will be to help your child to be respectful and accepting towards others. We are preparing children for life in Britain: Britain is diverse and they are going to meet people who are different to them as they grow up.

What are the topics covered in RSE?

At Bedford Hall Methodist School, our PSHE and RSE curriculum follows the Coram SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievements, Resilience, Friendship) scheme of learning from Reception to Year 6. Each year group covers 6 units of work: Rights and Responsibilities, Keeping Safe, Growing and Changing, Valuing Difference, Relationships and Health. The specific lesson content can be found on the school website [here](#).