

FILLING IN THE DRAFT GUIDANCE CONSULTATION

WHAT IS THE CONSULTATION

The government has proposed new guidance for relationships, sex and health education in England.

Their proposed changes are now open for consultation until the 11th July.

Anyone, including young people, can respond to the consultation.

It is vital that you respond to this consultation to make your voice heard and to ensure that sex education meets the needs of young people.

Click the link in our bio to fill it in yourself! OR find it at this address

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/>

HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION

If you have 5 minutes

Answer the multiple choice questions only.

If you have 15 minutes

We suggest responding to the multiple choice questions and writing in the general comments section at the end (question 51).

Here you can share how you believe the draft guidance will impact on the lives of young people.

Remember to avoid copy/pasting from these guidelines as it may mean your response is not accepted.

If you have 30 minutes

We suggest responding to the multiple choice questions and writing in the boxes after each one, explaining your views.

Remember to avoid copy/pasting from these guidelines as it may mean your response is not accepted.

DETAILS OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE CONSULTATION

Introductory Questions 1–10

These questions cover background information such as whether you're an organisation or individual, your gender identity, your location and whether you wish for your response to be confidential.

Review Timetable & Structure of the Guidance 11–12

These questions ask whether you feel the curriculum should continue to be reviewed regularly to see if the content included is right as well as your view on whether the guidance is easy to follow.

Schools Relationships and Sex Education Policies & Openness with Parents 13–16

These questions ask whether you feel the proposed draft guidance covers the involvement of parents in sex education well.

Age Limits on Teaching Certain Subjects 17–19

These questions ask whether you believe the restrictions on content safeguard young people and whether they are flexible enough.

The new draft guidance would stop certain content in schools from being covered before certain ages.

For example: puberty would not be taught before year 4; sex education would not be taught before year 5; aspects of pornography would not be taught before year 9; STIs would not be covered before year 9; female genital mutilation would not be covered before year 9; serious abuse would not be covered before year 9.

You may want to consider how banning information can impact young people and whether the age ratings proposed are right.

Sexual Orientation 20–21

These questions ask for your view on the proposed changes to the topic of sexuality. This includes making explicit that primary schools do not need to teach about LGBTQ+ relationships.

You may want to consider the impact of these proposed changes on LGBTQ+ young people and children growing up with same-sex parent families.

Gender Reassignment 22–23

These questions ask for your view on the new proposed restrictions about the teaching of gender identity.

These restrictions ban the teaching about gender identity or the view that gender is a spectrum on the grounds they are 'a highly contested concepts'.

You may want to consider the impact these bans would have on trans young people.

Addressing Prejudice, harassment and sexual violence 24–25

These questions ask your view of the new content about prejudice, harassment and sexual violence.

New topics include: revenge porn, upskirting, public sexual harassment, and unsolicited sexual language / attention / touching.

Primary Sex Education 26–27

These questions ask for your view on the ban on teaching sex education before year 5.

You may want to consider that relationships and sex education works best as a spiral curriculum that builds on topics over time as young people develop and mature.

Secondary Topics: Online and Media, Respectful Relationships, including friendships, and Being Safe 28–37

These questions ask you about your views on the proposed age restrictions on the teaching of: pornography, domestic abuse, sexual abuse, rape, coercive relationships and female genital mutilation (FGM).

The proposed changes would ban the teaching of FGM before year 9, ban the teaching of pornography before year 7 and ban discussion of serious abuse before year 9.

You may want to consider that: there are not age restrictions on abuse; some young people will be victims of sexual abuse before year 7; some young people will be victims of domestic violence before year 9.

You may want to consider that many young people will have been exposed to sexual content, like porn, on the internet before year 7.

You may want to consider that many victims of female genital mutilation (FGM) will be subject to FGM before year 9.

Secondary Topic: Intimate and Sexual Relationships, including sexual health 38–39

This section covers the proposed new age restrictions on consent, sexual activity and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The proposed new age restrictions would ban discussion of STIs before year 9.

You may want to consider that: STI rates have risen in recent years; it can be difficult to fully explain the law and behaviour surrounding consent without reference to sexual behaviour

Health and Wellbeing 40–46

This topic covers whether: social media should be taught before year 3, online safety regarding gaming before year 3, puberty before year 4, and suicide before year 8.

You may want to consider that some people begin puberty before year 4 and that 1 in 4 currently experience their period before learning about it in school.

Suicide Prevention 47–48

This asks for your view on the age restrictions regarding suicide prevention education.

Additional Content 49–50

This asks for your view on the new content being proposed.

General Comments – 51

This is a chance to say anything you felt you haven't been able to say so far.

If you only have 15 minutes we recommend, completing this box with your views of the proposed guidance.

One thing to consider is that the ban on diagrams perceived to be 'simplifying' content, is very inaccessible, especially for young people with special educational needs.

Public Sector Equality Duty – 52

This gives you the opportunity to explain how the draft guidance could impact those with a protected characteristic under the equality act (the protected characteristics are: age, gender reassignment, being married or in a civil partnership, being pregnant or on maternity leave, disability, race – including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation).

You can suggest how the draft guidance could be improved to be more accommodating of those with protected characteristics.

You may want to consider how these proposed changes may affect LGBTQ+ people, women and people with disabilities.