



RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION PARENT CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Summer 2020

This consultation seeks the views of our Parents/Carers on our RSE Policy, which will apply at MCPA from September 2020, in line with requirements from the Department for Education (DfE).

In June 2019, the DfE published “Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education” (June 2019). This guidance:

Makes it compulsory for all schools to have an RSE Policy and to consult parents and carers in the development of that policy; Sets out the topics that need to be taught to pupils by the end of primary school; and makes changes to the right of parents or carers to withdraw their child from the elements of sex education that are not taught as part of the compulsory national science curriculum.

These and other topics are covered in our RSE Policy and RSE Curriculum. The new requirements formalise expectations but don't make significant changes to what we teach our pupils. Many of the topics required by the DfE were already taught as part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum, and in other subjects.

In addition to consulting parents and carers on our RSE Policy, we have met good practice recommendations from the DfE by consulting parents and carers in the development of our RSE Curriculum, via a parent breakfast (focus group) earlier this year. Parents and carers were invited & encouraged to take part to express their views; we had a diverse range of parents and carers in attendance that represented the diversity of our school. Our staff team have also been engaged in the development of the RSE elements of the PSHE Curriculum, as appropriate and in line with good practice recommendations.

We've worked hard to make sure that our new curriculum reflects:

Our values of equality, inclusion and respect for all pupils and communities; our pupils' age and maturity levels, as well as their cultural and religious backgrounds; every child's learning needs; and what pupils need to know to be healthy and safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world.

Parents and carers were invited to submit responses to the consultation questions below via an online survey or alternatively to serena.james@mca.manchester.sch.uk - for the attention of the school PSHE lead.

The deadline for responses was 14th July 2020.



Parent consultation survey Questions:

Q1: Is our RSE Policy clearly written and easy to understand – could any parts of it be made clearer?

Q2: After reading Section 8 of our RSE Policy (“The Right to Withdraw”), do you understand how to submit a request to withdraw your child from the elements of sex education that are not taught as part of the compulsory national science curriculum?

Q3: Do you think that our RSE Policy and Curriculum cover all of the topics required by the DfE? Those topics are set out in Appendix 1 on our RSE Policy. (Please also see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>).

Q4: After reading our RSE Policy and RSE Curriculum, how would you rate your understanding of when and how your child will be taught about the range of RSE topics required by the DfE?

Q5: (Optional): If you answered “I have no understanding of when and how my child will be taught about the range of RSE topics required by the DfE” in response to Question 4, please explain how we can better support your understanding of the RSE curriculum.

Q6: To what extent do you agree with the following statement about our RSE Policy and Curriculum: “I feel confident that my child will be taught about the range of RSE topics required by the DfE at an appropriate stage in their development, in a way that is sensitive to their cultural or religious background and in a way that respects the dignity and equality of all students”.

Q7: (Optional): If you answered “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” in response to Question 6, please explain why you do not feel confident about our approach to teaching RSE, which is underpinned by our values of equality and inclusion.

Q8: Do you have any additional information or evidence which we may have overlooked when developing our RSE Policy?

Parent consultation survey results:

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION POLICY QUESTIONS:	Parent responses:
Is our RSE Policy clearly written and easy to understand – could any parts of it be made clearer?	90.9% of the parents/carers who took the survey felt that the policy was clearly written and easy to understand.
After reading Section 8 of our RSE Policy (“The Right to Withdraw”), do you understand how to submit a request to withdraw your child from the elements of sex education that are not taught as part of the compulsory national science curriculum?	100% of the parents/carers who took the survey indicated that they understood Section 8 (“The Right to Withdraw”).
Do you think that our RSE Policy and Curriculum cover all of the topics required by the DfE? Those topics are set out in Appendix 1 on our RSE Policy.	72.7% of the parents/carers who took the survey agreed that our RSE Policy and Curriculum covered all of the topics required by the DfE.
After reading our RSE Policy and RSE Curriculum, how would you rate your understanding of when and how your child will be taught about the range of RSE topics required by the DfE?	72.8% of the parent/carers who took the survey indicated that they had a good understanding of when and how their child will be taught about the range of RSE topics required by the DfE.
To what extent do you agree with the following statement about our RSE Policy and Curriculum: “I feel confident that my child will be taught about the range of RSE topics required by the DfE at an appropriate stage in their development, in a way that is sensitive to their cultural or religious background and in a way that respects the dignity and equality of all students”.	81.8% of the parent/carers who took the survey agreed with the statement about our RSE Policy and Curriculum, whilst 18.2% remained neutral.

We will continue to hold Parent focus groups, as well as Parent Breakfast, in order to: provide more information and support for parents/carers; signpost families to helpful services/resources, and to listen to and discuss your views on the RSE & Health Education curriculum.

The parent survey showed that some parents felt that LGBTQ was not specifically mentioned in the policy, however most parents did agree that respecting differences between families within society was reflected in Relationships Education & that diversity was celebrated across the curriculum.

Below is the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) guidance for schools on LGBTQ. In line with government guidance, MCPA will continue to integrate LGBTQ into the Relationships Education programme of study (as outlined in policy), rather than delivering standalone lessons.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)

36. In teaching Relationships Education and RSE, schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, (please see The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice), under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics.

37. Schools should ensure that all of their teaching is sensitive and age appropriate in approach and content. At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT, they should ensure that this content is fully integrated into their programmes of study for this area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a standalone unit or lesson. Schools are free to determine how they do this, and we expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum.

Parents/Carers can find out more information on LGBTQI by viewing our LGBTQI Education policy on the MCPA website.

The parent survey showed that some parents needed more clarity on statutory guidance for Religion & Belief in RSE.

Our approach and delivery of RSE is faith-sensitive, inclusive and respectful of the diverse range of families within our school community. The Relationships & sex education element of PSHE enables children to form healthy, safe & respectful relationships (including how to respond safely and appropriately to other children & adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online), and to learn more about the changes they will go through during puberty.

At MCPA, we will continue to develop our RSE curriculum in partnership with parents and carers, and work to ensure that our delivery is sensitive to the range of different values, cultures and beliefs we have within our community.

Please find below the RSE statutory guidance for schools on religion and belief(including teaching in schools with a religious character):

19. A good understanding of pupils' faith backgrounds and positive relationships between the school and local faith communities help to create a constructive context for the teaching of these subjects.

20. In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of all pupils must be taken into account when planning teaching, so that the topics that are included in the core content in this guidance are appropriately handled. Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, under which religion or belief are amongst the protected characteristics.

21. All schools may teach about faith perspectives. In particular, schools with a religious character may teach the distinctive faith perspective on relationships, and balanced debate may take place about issues that are seen as contentious. For example, the school may wish to reflect on faith teachings about certain topics as well as how their faith institutions may support people in matters of relationships and sex.

22. In all schools, teaching should reflect the law (including the Equality Act 2010) as it applies to relationships, so that young people clearly understand what the law allows and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of decisions they may make.

The Department for Education defines relationships education as, “teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships and relationships with other peers and adults”. Parents are reminded that the Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools.

Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools & therefore parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education beyond the national curriculum for science (as stated on RSE Policy).

You can find out more information on the statutory requirements for Relationships and Sex Education here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>



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