



Frequently Asked Questions about Relationships, Health and Sex Education

Below, we have explained some of the common questions around these subjects.

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

In a Primary School, you have the right to withdraw from any non-statutory sex education lessons that go beyond that of the science national curriculum. At Whitehall Junior School, this only applies to our Year 6 pupils where there are non-statutory aspects being taught. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at Primary or Secondary school as the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Will these subjects promote LGBT relationships?

No, through the delivery of these subjects, our aim is not to 'promote' anything, instead, 'educate'. We are teaching about equality. Our school values says that we are **'respectful of ourselves and others; fair inclusion of everyone'**. This means that if someone is of a **different race group**, they are welcome in our school; if someone **has a disability**, they are welcome in our school; if someone is of a **different sexual orientation**, they are welcome in our school.

That said, the Ealing scheme of work does not have specific lessons to address LGBT.

Included in the topic of 'families', children may well see pictures of a variety of family settings, including some of the following which may lead to comments being made about children 'having two fathers' or 'having two mothers'.





Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. RHSE 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. All our planned learning will be taught in an age-appropriate way.

Are primary children too young to be taught about gay or lesbian people?

Some children grow up in families with gay or lesbian parents. We cannot say to a child who has two dads, "You can't talk about your family!" We want all of our children to know that their family is accepted in our school. Our children will interact with people from different backgrounds; we want them to treat all members of the community with the same respect. Just like racism, our 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 'that's a girl's/boy's toy' when used in a negative manner may unintentionally cause offence to a child or adult. Our school will challenge this language if it is used by children, parents or visitors as we want everyone to feel welcome.

There are no children who are gay or transgender here, so why does it need to be mentioned?

We want our children to grow up respectful and tolerant members of our community. As they grow up, make more friends, watch TV, or go to different places, they will meet people who are gay or transgender. We want them to understand that this is okay for some children to be different.

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

We are teaching about equality. We understand and respect all faiths. We recognise the tension that it can present. We are teaching children not to be afraid of difference but to celebrate difference. Any discussion or resources used will be to help your child be respectful and tolerant towards others. We are preparing the children for life in Britain. Britain is diverse and they are going to meet people who are different to them as they grow up.



You are confusing my child because at home they are learning that being gay is wrong but at school you are telling them that being gay is OK.

As a parent, it is your right to talk to your child about religious beliefs. In schools, we build our curriculum around UK law. We are teaching children that all people and relationships are equal. We are teaching children that all families are different and your child, as they grow up, is going to meet people who live in different families. It is important that children learn about people who are different. They need to learn to be tolerant and respectful of people with different views.

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

Parents can view the videos which explain what is taught within each year group on our school website: <https://www.whitehalljunior.org/rhse-information-summer-term-2022/>.

This will help you 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. Each term, parents will have access to the Year-Group Newsletters, via the school website, which will summarise what is being taught. If you need to discuss this further, teachers will be happy to discuss this with you or signpost other resources that can be use at home to support discussions.