



Support 4 the Family *in UKIP*



Children belong to the family not the state

support4thefamily.org

8 October 2018

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education

Public Consultation from the Department for Education

Open to everyone. Closing date Wednesday 7 November 2018

Historical Background

From December 2017 to February 2018 the Department for Education held a consultation on ***Changes to the teaching of Sex & Relationship Education and PSHE***, otherwise known as the ***Call for Evidence***.

The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the public response to the introduction of new compulsory subjects as a consequence of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. These are:

- Relationships Education in primary schools;
- Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools.

These new subjects will complement or replace existing teaching on these subjects, but elements of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) will be retained for continuity.

The results of the survey have been used to produce draft regulations and guidance for the new subjects, and now a second consultation is in progress to get them ready to put before Parliament for debate.

We have been concerned, since the Children and Social Work Bill was introduced, that Relationships Education would become a platform for the introduction of sexual orientation and transgender ideology to young children from the age of 4. There is no requirement for sex education in primary schools (although some schools might decide to teach it), which means that children will be taught about sexual orientation before they are taught about sex. In other words, they will learn to be gay before they know how to be straight.

We were also concerned that the Children and Social Work Act removes the right of parents to withdraw their children from sex education when it is taught as part of Relationships and Sex Education.

We expressed our concern about these issues at the UKIP National Conference in Torquay in October 2017, by distributing handouts from our exhibition, and by introducing a conference motion to appoint a Spokesman for Families and Children. The motion was carried by an overwhelming majority and was acted upon a few months later by Gerard Batten when he became Party Leader, and he appointed Alan Craig as Spokesman on this issue.

We encouraged our supporters to get involved in the Government's public consultation and we asked you to follow the guidelines produced by the Safe at School Campaign, a project of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). We would like to thank all those who responded and sent their views to the Government.

Now that we have seen the second consultation our fears are justified, as we will see, as we go through just a few of the questions.

The Consultation: Send Your Views to the Government

The consultation, including the supporting documents, is available on the Government website here:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/>

On this page you will find a link to the 'Online Survey' and underneath it there is a series of links to relevant documents. The ones you need to read are:

- *Consultation and Government response to call for evidence*. This contains the list of questions including references to the appropriate paragraphs of the "guidance". You can go through the questions in advance before you go to the Online Survey.
- *Draft statutory guidance on RSE and health education*. This is the document referred to as the "guidance".

You don't have to answer all the questions, you only need to answer the ones that concern you, but we recommend that you should answer the following questions:

Questions 10 & 11 are about Relationships Education in primary schools, based on paragraphs 50-57 of the guidance. You might be interested in paragraph 54 which is about safety of children online and you could say that parents need to be involved and keep an eye on what their children are doing with their computers & phones, etc. Also paragraph 57 is about safety from abuse, including sexual abuse, and you might want to explain that it's possible to teach children about this without being explicit (for example the Pantosaurus programme).

There are no specific instructions in paragraphs 50-57 about teaching sex and sexuality, but moving on to paragraph 59 which is also under Relationships Education, there is advice about managing tricky questions, and it suggests that if you don't answer questions the children will find out from elsewhere, for example the internet. So basically there is a green light to teach anything that the children ask about and you can't say "You'll find out when you are older".

Question 12 is about Sex Education, which some schools might choose to teach in primary education although it's not compulsory. The question appears in the survey under Relationships Education, and it's based on paragraphs 61-64 of the guidance which are under *Sex Education (Primary)*, a sub-heading under the main heading *Relationships Education (Primary)*. This doesn't look right, Sex Education in primary schools is supposed to be separate from Relationships Education and you might want to question it.

Questions 13 & 14 are about Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools and it's based on paragraphs 65-77 of the guidance. It's the usual permissive stuff that has been taught in secondary schools for decades, but you might be particularly concerned about paragraph 71 which says children should be taught about sexual orientation, gender identity, and "healthy same-sex relationships" (as if there is such a thing). You might want to complain about some of this, including the problems that might arise in traditional families as a consequence of parents having no right to withdraw their children from these lessons.

Question 15 is based on paragraphs 36-46 of the guidance and it's about the right of parents to remove their children from sex education when it's taught in secondary schools as part of RSE. The parent has a right to go and see the head teacher and request the removal of their child, but that's all, the head teacher is under no obligation to grant the request. You should say that this is not good enough, the parent should have the right to decide the matter.

Question 20 is the same as Question 15, based on the same paragraphs of the guidance, but it's in the context of the school engaging with the community. The answer is that they can't engage with the community while they are bullying parents on the issue of sex education.

Question 28 is also the same as Question 15 except that it's about making regulations about the circumstances in which children can be withdrawn from sex education.

Please send us your views about this survey, we would like to hear from you.

Mike Gascoigne