

Relationships and Health Education Parents' and Carers' Right to Withdraw from Twinkl Life PSHE Lessons

Adult Guidance

What Is the 'Right to Withdraw'?

The right to withdraw allows parents and carers to request that their child does not participate in certain lessons at school. Parents and carers may only request for their child to be withdrawn from parts of the curriculum which are non-statutory.

Details of the right to be excused (commonly known as the right to withdraw) can be found in the government's [statutory guidance](#) on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

Every school should consult the guidance and make decisions regarding their school's Relationships and Health Education provision. Primary schools can determine which aspects, if any, of Sex Education they will deliver.

Which Parts of Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Can Parents and Carers Withdraw Their Child From?

From September 2020, Relationships Education and Health Education became statutory for all primary children, in all primary schools. This means that parents and carers cannot withdraw their child from these lessons. However, they will be able to request that their child is withdrawn from lessons about Sex Education taught as part of Relationships and Health Education, which are not statutory objectives covered in the science national curriculum.

Statutory Science Objectives Linked to RSHE

In year 1, children learn to identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body.

In year 2, children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They should be introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth, but not how reproduction occurs.

In year 5, children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including reproduction. They also learn about the changes that happen in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning what happens in puberty.

When teaching the [Twinkl Life PSHE and Citizenship scheme of work](#), it is important to know which lessons are compulsory for all children and which lessons parents and carers may request to withdraw their child from.

In our scheme, parents and carers may wish to withdraw their child from lessons that contain learning on Sex Education: the purpose of male and female genitalia, how babies are conceived, how babies are born, what a sexual relationship is, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases. This content accounts for four lessons in the LKS2 and UKS2 Growing Up units of work.

Key Stage	Unit and Lesson Title	Objectives Covered
LKS2	Growing Up - Human Reproduction	H33. about the processes of reproduction and birth as part of the human life cycle; how babies are conceived and born (and that there are ways to prevent a baby being made); how babies need to be cared for
LKS2	Growing Up - Where Do I Come From?	H33. about the processes of reproduction and birth as part of the human life cycle; how babies are conceived and born (and that there are ways to prevent a baby being made); how babies need to be cared for
UKS2	Growing Up - Let's Talk about Sex	H9. that bacteria and viruses can affect health; how everyday hygiene routines can limit the spread of infection; the wider importance of personal hygiene and how to maintain it H30. to identify the external genitalia and internal reproductive organs in males and females and how the process of puberty relates to human reproduction H33. about the processes of reproduction and birth as part of the human life cycle; how babies are conceived and born (and that there are ways to prevent a baby being made); how babies need to be cared for R25. recognise different types of physical contact; what is acceptable and unacceptable; strategies to respond to unwanted physical contact
UKS2	Growing Up - Human Reproduction	H33. about the processes of reproduction and birth as part of the human life cycle; how babies are conceived and born (and that there are ways to prevent a baby being made); how babies need to be cared for

These lessons contain important learning about relationships and reproduction, following objectives in the PSHE Association Programme of Study. However, the content is not statutory.

Teachers wishing to use the Twinkl Life PSHE and Citizenship scheme of work can rest assured that even if children are withdrawn from these lessons, the statutory objectives relating to Relationships and Health Education will be fully met through the rest of the scheme.

How Can Schools Support Parents and Carers Who Wish to Withdraw Their Child from Parts of the Curriculum?

Schools should ensure that all parents and carers are made fully aware of the school's Relationship and Health Education curriculum and provision. This should be done through clear, regular communication and the sharing of documents such as the school's Relationships and Health Education policy.

A parent or carer who wishes to withdraw their child from part or all of the Sex Education curriculum should be listened to and respected. If possible, schools should discuss the importance of this education with parents and carers, explicitly sharing the benefits of participation and potential issues associated with being withdrawn from the learning but, ultimately, the school must support the parent or carer's right to withdraw their child from these lessons.

For further guidance, consult the '[Introduction to Requirements](#)' section of the Statutory Guidance: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

Should Primary Schools Include LGBT Content?

Primary schools should consider their approach to LGBT content and how they will tailor learning to meet the needs of their pupils. Schools should communicate their ethos, rationale and curriculum clearly with families and carers.

Schools should consider the following important aspects of the guidance (page 15):

1. 'Schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect.'
2. 'Schools must ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010... under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics.'
3. 'We expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum.'
4. 'At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT, they should ensure this content is fully integrated into their programmes of study for this area... rather than delivered as a stand-alone unit or lesson.'

What Supporting Resources Are Available?

Our mapping documents for [KS1](#), [LKS2](#) and [UKS2](#) show the coverage of objectives in the Twinkl Life PSHE scheme of work.

An editable [Relationships Education Sample Policy](#) is available from Twinkl Life as well as a [Right to Withdraw Letter Template](#) to send home to parents and carers.

The statutory guidance states that it is the school's responsibility to provide appropriate, purposeful education to any child excused from Sex Education lessons. You can find Twinkl Life's resources that can be used with children withdrawn from these lessons [here](#) for KS1 and [here](#) for KS2.

What Is Twinkl's Rationale for Relationships, Health and Sex Education?

Our resources are written and edited by experienced teachers who all share a passion for creating high-quality PSHE content. We believe children should learn about relationships and health throughout their primary education via a spiral curriculum, where they can continually build on their knowledge and develop their skills. We also feel that when sensitive topics are taught this way, teachers and children alike become more comfortable when teaching and learning about 'tricky' or 'awkward' subjects.

We believe that safeguarding is paramount and that the PSHE curriculum can support this. Young children should know the scientific names of their body parts and that certain parts of their bodies are private.

We introduce puberty in LKS2 because some children will notice their bodies changing at this age and we feel they should be prepared for these changes, ideally before they start. Human reproduction is also introduced in LKS2 to give context as to why our bodies change during puberty.

Sex Education is now statutory in secondary schools. Our primary PSHE and Citizenship scheme of work prepares children for this statutory content by teaching age-appropriate content covering learning objectives about what a sexual relationship is, who can have a sexual relationship and contraception.