

Parent/Carers' right to request withdrawal from sex education

*The following information is from the updated
'Relationships, Sex and Health Education' Statutory Guidance for Schools
by the UK Government July 2025*

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory (we MUST teach) Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Before granting any request for withdrawal of a child from sex education, our Head teacher will discuss the request with Parents/Carers, and the child if appropriate, to understand the request and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. This is likely to include discussing the benefits of sex education, and any detrimental effects of withdrawal, including social and emotional impacts on the child, and the likelihood that the child will hear their peers' version of what was said in class, which may not be accurate.

Where primary schools provide sex education, head teachers must automatically grant a request to withdraw a pupil from it, other than content that is taught as part of the science curriculum.

Bestwood Village School does NOT teach sex education prior to Year 7 and only in consultation with Parents/Carers to ensure that the teaching is appropriate to the pupils needs.

From Key Stage 3 (Year 7+) the Headteacher can refuse a request in exceptional circumstances, for example because of safeguarding concerns or a pupil's specific vulnerability, this will always be discussed with Parents/Carers.

From three terms before the pupil turns 16, a pupil can choose to opt back into sex education even if their parent has requested withdrawal. For example, if a pupil turns 16 during the Autumn Term, the pupil can opt back into sex education at any time after the start of the previous Autumn Term.

If a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, we have a responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

Parents/Carers do not have the right to withdraw their pupils from relationships and health education, nor can they be withdrawn from topics taught as part of the science curriculum, including science topics related to puberty or sexual reproduction.

Everyone has relationships with others, and most pupils will develop sexual relationships at some point in their lives. Relationships education should equip pupils with the knowledge and skills they need to act with kindness and respect in all their relationships as they grow into adulthood, to enjoy their relationships, and to keep themselves and others safe.

Our relationships education will focus on how to form and sustain positive relationships but will also help children identify risks and harms. Our relationships education may therefore include topics related to preventing sexual abuse, for example, or avoiding sharing inappropriate material online. This can be done without describing the detail of any sexual activity involved. Similarly, good safeguarding practice requires young people to understand the correct terms for different parts of the body and to be able to confidently use these terms. This will be provided as part of health education in primary, without describing any detail of sexual activity.

Relationships and Sex Education is taught as part of our PHSE Curriculum and adapted to meet the needs of our pupils as part of our Education Pathways, Robin, Kestrel & Eagle.

Full details of our PHSE Curriculum and how we teach RSE are available on our School Website and digital or paper copies can be requested from our Admin Office. From September 2026 Parents/Carers will receive a PHSE Newsletter detailing the upcoming PHSE topics for that Term for their child.

We always welcome feedback, suggestions or queries regarding our PHSE/RSE offer and Parents/Carers are encouraged to contact us via the Admin Office, Class Dojo or our Parent/Carer PHSE Feedback Form on our School Website. The Parent/Carer 'Right to Withdraw' Form is also available from the School Website or Admin Office as digital or paper copies.

Kind regards,

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