

September 2019

Dear Headteachers and Chairs of Governors,

Preparation for the introduction of mandatory Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

The government has published [new statutory guidance](#) for Relationships Education - RSE and Health Education - which will become statutory from September 2020.

Haringey Council supports schools with their duty to teach these subjects, which will enable children and young people to build healthy relationships and help them to feel prepared for adulthood. Research demonstrates that young people who have received quality education on relationships and sexual health are more likely to delay sex for the first time and use contraception when they do have sex. It also means that young people are less likely to be pregnant before the age of 18 and that they are more likely to tell an adult if they had, or were, experiencing sexual abuse.

The Council also welcomes the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) content in the new guidance and extends its support for all of our schools to deliver an LGBT inclusive curriculum.

We recognise that teaching these topics is not new for any of our schools. Many schools in Haringey are already providing excellent education around relationships and sexual health, as part of their role as a Healthy School and in their responsibility for developing pupils' social and emotional learning.

The change in legislation means that schools will be responsible for teaching Relationships Education or RSE and Health Education, updating or producing a policy, complying with legislation on equalities, and ensuring that teaching and any materials used are appropriate to the age and background of their pupils. To support schools in leading the preparation for working towards the new guidance, schools will be offered:

- Dedicated web pages (www.haringey.gov.uk/rse) for schools, developed by Haringey Public Health, which include a range of **information and resources**, including:
 - Information about the new guidance and what it means for schools.
 - Guidance on next steps for schools, including understanding pupils' needs, refreshing the policy, updating the curriculum, training for staff, and engaging with parents and carers.
 - Useful data on children and young people.
 - Information about local services and resources to complement the curriculum, including new cyber bullying resources (Stamp Out Cyberbullying and Keep Safe! - SOCKS!) for primary schools in Haringey.
- **Training** has been commissioned, by Haringey Education Partnership (HEP), for senior school staff leading the Relationships Education and RSE curriculum. Further information can be found [on the RSE page](#). The training will be delivered by the [Sex](#)

[Education Forum](#), which is part of the National Children's Bureau. The training will explore the implications of statutory status, consulting with parents and carers, and will offer guidance on applying resources to ensure inclusive and needs-led teaching.

- The biennial Health-Related Behaviours Questionnaire has been commissioned as part of the Healthy Schools programme to collect information on children and young people's health and wellbeing. The survey has been reviewed to support schools in **understanding pupils' needs** around relationships and sexual health (secondary only). Headteachers will receive separate communications inviting schools to participate in this free survey after October half term.
- To inform RSE lessons and pastoral care support for young people, secondary schools will shortly receive a package of information about [sexual health services for young people in Haringey](#) (including a new under 19s drop-in). This will coincide with this year's Sexual Health Week which will take place 16th – 22nd September 2019.

A full overview of this will also be provided at the following forums, which will enable further discussion about the changes in legislation and new guidance:

- Secondary Heads Forum on 7th October 2019
- Primary Heads Forum on 9th October 2019
- Governor Briefings on 16th October 2019

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or questions.

Yours sincerely



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