

# Overview & Scrutiny

## Children & Young People Scrutiny Commission

**Date of meeting:** Monday 24 February 2020

**Title of report:** School preparedness for RSE education legislation 2020

**Report author:** Annie Gammon/Helena Burke

**Authorised by:** Annie Gammon 12-2-20

**Brief:**

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the government committed to making relationships education (primary) and relationships and sex education (secondary) statutory in all schools, including LA maintained schools, academies, free schools and independent schools. All schools will soon be required to have relationships education/RSE in place and a relationships and sex education policy.

This report details action taken by HLT to ensure schools are supported to be prepared for the new legislation.

## HLT briefing for scrutiny re preparedness of local schools ahead of new RSE guidelines coming into effect from September 2020.

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the government committed to making relationships education (primary) and relationships and sex education (secondary) statutory in all schools, including LA maintained schools, academies, free schools and independent schools. All schools will soon be required to have relationships education/RSE in place and a relationships and sex education policy. A summary of the legislation and DfE guidance for schools is attached as Appendix A.

The new curriculum will be mandatory from September 2020. Schools are encouraged to adopt the new curriculum early from September 2019. Hackney Learning Trust (HLT) recommends that Sex Education in primary schools is taught as part of a balanced PSHE curriculum.

HLT welcomes these statutory changes. They ensure that all pupils are equipped with the knowledge to make decisions on their health, wellbeing and relationships in order to prepare them for a successful adult life. This links with HLT's stated mission: **to improve the life chances of every child, young person and learner in Hackney.**

All schools need to have an RSE policy in place for September 2020, which takes into account pupils' needs and the school community the school serves. Consultation with parents needs to be made when planning and delivering the curriculum content. Should schools consider it appropriate to teach lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) issues they should ensure that this is fully integrated in to the curriculum rather than teaching this as a standalone unit.

In order to support schools in delivering the above, as part of this year's CPD offer to schools, HLT has provided training to schools (see an extract from the primary and secondary CPD training programme 2019 – 2020). In addition Young Hackney provide training as detailed in their submission.

The introduction of the new curriculum is high profile nationally and locally. We consider that schools are either already well prepared or are preparing well for September 2020.

The training on offer is available to independent school delegates as well as those from maintained schools.

These are:

1. Preparing for Statutory Relationships and Sex Education (Jenny Fox presenting from the PSHE Association)  
Thursday, 7 November 2019, 9am - 12pm at the Tomlinson Centre
2. Primary Subject Leader Forum: PSHE, 4pm – 6pm at the Tomlinson Centre  
Thursday, 6 February 2020  
Wednesday, 20 May 2020
3. The Hackney SENCO Conference March 2020 has a focus on Sex and Relationships education for SEND children.
4. Secondary PHSE Subject Leader Network, 4pm - 6pm at the Tomlinson Centre  
Thursday, 21 November 2019, 4pm – 6pm  
Thursday, 19 March 2020, 4pm – 6pm  
Thursday, 11 June 2020, 4pm – 6pm
5. Secondary Subject Leader Development Day  
Thursday, 9 July 2020, 9am – 4pm at the Tomlinson Centre

Hackney Learning Trust is able to draw on the expertise of our Senior RE Teaching and Learning Consultant to provide specific advice and support for faith schools with regards to implementing these new statutory requirements. There is also reference to this in the DfE guidance.

HLT has established an email network for the PSHE leads in primary schools to disseminate information from a range of providers. For secondary schools, resources are shared at the scheduled network meetings.

Alongside the above, HLT uses its close links with the PSHE Association, which provide a wealth of resources that are available to PSHE Association members.

The following documents (the list has been disseminated to schools) are useful to governing bodies, headteachers and senior leadership teams when establishing best practice:

1. [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, headteachers, principals, senior leadership team and teachers](#), Department for Education, 2019
2. [Preparing for Statutory Relationships Education, PSHE education lead's pack: key stages 1 and 2](#), PSHE Association, 2018
3. [Preparing for Statutory Relationships Education, PSHE education lead's pack: key stages 3 and 4](#), PSHE Association, 2018
4. [Roadmap to statutory RSE](#), Sex Education Forum website
5. [Writing your school's relationships and sex education policy](#), PSHE Association, 2018
6. [Relationships Education: supporting parental engagement](#), PSHE Association, 2019

In addition, The Young Hackney Health and Wellbeing Team deliver free targeted educational interventions for young people aged 5 to 19.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have sent a letter to all schools expressing their support for inclusion and appreciation of diversity. They confirmed their support for the new legislation and school's delivery of revised SRE curricula. The letter is attached as an appendix.

Hackney Learning Trust is also considering producing a short leaflet for parents and running an open briefing in the summer term 2020.

February 2020