



Department  
for Education

## **Register as an early adopter: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education**

From September 2020, subject to parliamentary approval, the following subjects will become compulsory:

- Relationships Education for primary schools
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for secondary schools
- Health Education in all state maintained schools

On Monday 25 February, the department laid regulations for the above subjects and awaits parliament's approval. The department also published the updated statutory guidance and the government's response to the consultation on the draft statutory guidance and regulations. These can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/relationships-and-sex-education-and-health-education>

The department is looking for schools to act as early adopters of this curriculum and begin teaching the new subjects from September 2019. The department wants a strong reference group of schools to work with, leading up to and during the academic year 2019 to 2020, as support and training materials are prepared for full compulsory teaching. This approach allows early adopter schools the opportunity to assist the department to shape the advice for schools.

The early adopter programme will give both the department and schools the opportunity to learn lessons about:

- best practice on how these subjects are taught most effectively
- how schools that currently teach a large proportion of the existing Sex and Relationship Education and PSHE are ensuring they teach the new requirements
- how the department can best support schools

Schools can register to become an early adopter now by filling in their details at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RSHEearlyadopterschool/>

As an early adopter school, the department will invite you to a national conference in the autumn that will include a range of workshops, access to national experts in the field and opportunities to network

The conference will be free with places allocated on a first come, first served basis. However, if the conference is oversubscribed, priority will be given to schools that registered earliest in the programme.

Schools that register now will be able to take part in the initial stages of identifying appropriate structures for training that will go out to teachers nationally.

Early adopter schools will also receive advanced drafts of school support products, which will be refined throughout the year.

The department will undertake a selection process, for a small number of schools to develop case studies on best practices. Information on the selection process will be published on [contractfinder.service.gov.uk](https://contractfinder.service.gov.uk) in the near future.

If you have any queries about the early adopters programme please contact Ade Alao at [rshe.earlyadopters@education.gov.uk](mailto:rshe.earlyadopters@education.gov.uk)

## **Further Information**

### **##Build on current practices**

We understand that schools will be at different stages in their journey to teaching the subjects. We want schools to start from wherever they feel comfortable and build on their current practice. The teaching of any part of the subjects must be age-appropriate and cater for the individual needs of their pupils. The compulsory requirement to teach all the new subjects is not until September 2020. However, all schools are encouraged to start to teach them from September 2019.

We encourage schools to start planning their curriculum to cater for all the content and how they could deliver them to their pupils. Schools should also consider how they can adopt a whole school approach to teaching the content of the draft statutory guidance. Please refer to the published draft guidance documents for further details relating to any specific subject areas at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/relationships-and-sex-education-and-health-education>

### **##Training**

The Department recognises that training is a priority for many schools. Following the responses to the consultation, the Department will be testing different solutions on how training can be rolled out to all schools, ahead of when compulsory requirement to teach the new subjects begins in September 2020. We hope that the training programme or elements of it can become available during the 2019 to 2020 academic year, to enable early adopter schools to have early access and can feedback on effectiveness of the training.

### **##Children and Social Work Act 2017**

The government brought in new legislation through the Children and Social Work Act 2017, to make Relationships Education compulsory at Primary and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory at Secondary from September 2020. The Act also gave a power to the Secretary of State to consider the status of Personal,

Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) or elements of the subject. After full consideration informed by the responses to the public call for evidence, the Secretary of State decided to make Health Education compulsory in all state funded schools.

In July 2018, the department announced its intention to work with schools, unions, other education providers (such as multi-academy trusts and dioceses) and expert organisations (including subject associations) to encourage early adopter schools, who will begin teaching the new subjects from September 2019.

The final statutory guidance will be published once the regulations have been passed.