

[RE/RSE: Sample Letter to Schools]

[Insert your address, date]

Dear [insert name of your head, governor, school etc],

As a parent with a child at [insert school name] I am writing to express my concern at the government's plans to introduce mandatory Relationship Education into all primary schools and Relationship and Sex Education into all secondary schools, in England, from September 2019.

I understand schools are encouraged to teach RE/RSE before September 2019 and to teach a more comprehensive syllabus than the legal minimum the new legislation will outline.

Whilst I appreciate that the government has not yet published its finalised guidelines for teaching RE/RSE, I am concerned about the inclusion of certain aspects that may find their way into the new curriculum. These are as follows:

- That RE/RSE will be used to introduce controversial and unscientific theories such as gender ideology that will teach children that gender is fluid and differs from biological sex. Schools should not be made to teach such ideas, especially as they lack any empirical basis and are based solely on a subjective feeling. If such concepts are taught then young children especially, will become confused about gender identity as well as about the differences between boys and girls.
- That RE/RSE will be used to teach concepts such as same-sex relationships being equal to heterosexual relationships. Such teachings promote a lifestyle at odds with all major religions and will conflict with the views of many parents.
- Whilst I concur on the need to protect children from sexual abuse, I am concerned that talking directly to young children about sexual abuse will affect their innocence and that it may lead children to worry that such an act will occur to them.
- That many resources produced by sex education organisations include material that is explicitly graphic both visually and verbally. I hope the school checks all resources bought in thoroughly or ideally produces them yourselves in collaboration with parents.

Whilst I completely understand the need to teach tolerance and keep children safe, I believe there are far more effective ways to do this, whilst also protecting a child's innocence.

Children, and young children especially, need to be taught about a broad range of values including respect, tolerance and compassion; not taught about or exposed to ideologies and issues that they are far too young to understand and make sense of.

Based on my above outlined concerns, I would kindly ask that:

- When you design the new RE/RSE curriculum that you take these above legitimate concerns in consideration.
- I am kept updated at all stages of the process in which the school's RE/RSE policy is drawn up.
- I am informed and invited to take part in any steering group or stakeholder meetings in which school policies are drafted and decisions are made regarding how, when and what children will be taught in RE/RSE.
- I am kept informed of the resources used and how and when RE/RSE will be taught to my child at each stage of their education in this school.
- I am kept informed if/when sex education is going to be taught, so that I can choose to exercise my parental right to withdraw my child from these classes as stated in the Children and Social Work Act (2017).
- I am given the right as a parent and primary educator of my child to be notified and given the option to withdraw my child from any lessons, assemblies or other activities which may involve teaching or exposing my child to beliefs and ideologies that are contrary to those of my religious faith.

I thank you for considering my concerns and look forward to liaising and working more closely with the school on RE/RSE matters.

Signed,
[*your name*]