

The right of withdrawal from September 2020

The statutory guidance for Relationships Education and Health Education will come into effect in all primary schools from 2020, including academies, free schools and independent schools.

In primary education from September 2020:

- Parents will not be able to withdraw their children from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education (which includes learning about the changing adolescent body and puberty).
- Parents will be able to withdraw their children from any aspects of Sex Education other than those which are part of the science curriculum. (Note that sex education will not be statutory in primary schools, however the new statutory guidance makes clear that schools *should* still provide a programme of age appropriate sex education)
- Head teachers in primary schools must grant requests to withdraw a pupil from sex education, other than where it is part of the science curriculum (although the guidance makes clear that good practice is *'likely to include the head teacher discussing with parents the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child'*).
- Where pupils are withdrawn from sex education, schools should document the process and will have to *'ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.'*