



Supporting pupils' understanding of LGBTQ+

From September 2020 all primary schools across the UK have to include Relationships Education within their curriculum. Statutory guidance, *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education*, states the following:

“The focus in primary school should be on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.

This starts with pupils being taught about what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them. From the beginning of primary school, building on early education, pupils should be taught how to take turns, how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect, the importance of honesty and truthfulness, permission seeking and giving, and the concept of personal privacy.

Respect for others should be taught in an age-appropriate way, in terms of understanding one's own and others' boundaries in play, in negotiations about space, toys, books, resources and so on.

From the beginning, teachers should talk explicitly about the features of healthy friendships, family relationships and other relationships which young children are likely to encounter. Drawing attention to these in a range of contexts should enable pupils to form a strong early understanding of the features of relationships that are likely to lead to happiness and security. This will also help them to recognise any less positive relationships when they encounter them.

Teaching about families requires sensitive and well-judged teaching based on knowledge of pupils and their circumstances. Families of many forms provide a nurturing environment for children. (Families can include for example, single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents, and carers amongst other structures.) “

Why include LGBT in Relationships and Health Education?

We live in a truly diverse world and it is important that all different family types in the UK feel included and accepted. We cannot ignore that some people are LGBTQ+ and that everyone has the right to live their lives the way they choose. Our children may have questions or misunderstandings and it is important that we give them an opportunity to explore and gain the correct knowledge to thrive and to reduce inappropriate name calling and other behaviours.

The Equality Act requires all schools to eliminate discrimination and a part of the Equality 'duty' is to teach children about acceptance, empathy and understanding of others.

Schools also have a safeguarding duty towards children to protect them from bullying, including homophobic behaviour.

1decision materials

As a school we use the 1decision programme to support pupils' learning of PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic). PSHE includes relationship education.

The 1decision materials have been fully kite-marked by the PSHE Association to ensure that they provide high quality and age appropriate content for children.

These resources have not been created to allow children to focus on different religions, race, family background or the like but to embrace difference and uniqueness in every way. The topics allow children to explore diversity. This has been intertwined into every lesson and subtly allow teachers to expand or increase content based on the children's needs.

The core of the programme is based around a series of videos where students can choose the choices for the characters whilst learning the skills, vocabulary, and knowledge to support their own decision making now or in the future.

The topics focus on situations children may face where they may have to make decisions for themselves. We aim to prepare children with the knowledge they need to make positive choices and to also ask for help where necessary. Within the programme students will also learn about the laws that are in place to protect us, including discrimination laws.

By the end of year 6 all student will have had the opportunity to explore and cover the topics set out within the statutory guidance, which aim to prepare them for secondary education.

The topics that are taught to pupils can be found in Appendix 1 of our RSE policy.

Note: Parents/carers, these are some of the topics which allow students to explore diversity and uniqueness, they focus on all types of people and do not have a single focus on LGBTQ+.

We feel that this is the best way to allow children to explore their own and views of others and to understand that all people have rights to live the way they choose as long as they are not hurting others.

You can view further information and samples of the videos here:

<https://www.1decision.co.uk/resources/parent-carer-zone>