



## RSHE Implementation Guidance - Lines to take

On 24<sup>th</sup> September DfE published Guidance entitled: “*Plan your relationships, sex and health curriculum.*” The guidance was intended to provide information to help school leaders plan, develop and implement the new statutory curriculum. However the wording within parts of this non-statutory guidance gave rise to a number of questions and cause for confusion. The following lines have been shared with us by DfE in an attempt to help clarify and quash any associated misinterpretation and misinformation.

1. It is for schools to choose materials that align with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSHE guidance.
2. The **non-statutory** guidance published on 24 September, ‘*Plan your Relationships, Sex and Health Education Curriculum*’, does **not** name organisations that schools should avoid working with.
3. The DfE has **not** suggested that schools should pause implementation of the new curriculum. Schools have flexibility over how they discharge their duty within the first year of compulsory teaching. Schools who assess that they are prepared to deliver teaching and have met the requirements set out in the statutory guidance are encouraged to begin delivering teaching whenever is practicable to do so. However, schools that assess that they are unable to meet adequately the requirements because of the lost time, and competing priorities, should aim to start preparations to deliver the new curriculum and to commence teaching the new content by at least the start of the summer term 2021. To ensure teaching begins as soon as possible, schools are encouraged to take a phased approach (if needed) when introducing these subjects.
4. Schools are required to consult parents in developing and reviewing their Relationships Education/RSE policy; and the statutory RSHE guidance sets out clear advice on choosing resources. Schools should assess each resource they intend to use to ensure that it is appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils, and sensitive to their needs, where relevant. We also expect schools to consult with parents on these matters. Schools should also ensure that, when they engage parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use, for example the books or materials they will use in lessons.
5. The recently published training modules, and those that are to follow, are designed to be used in training teachers on the delivery of the RSHE curriculum, and we have not provided classroom resources for schools to use in teaching the new curriculum.

Please do use the above lines to counter any mis-information and ease any doubts or confusion that may have arisen.

Please also advise the schools to refer to the DfE statutory guidance here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>