

RSHE Parent Consultation 2026

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who took part in our RSHE consultation. We received responses from **21 families across EYFS to Year 6**. Your feedback has helped us evaluate our current provision and identify how we can continue to improve communication and partnership with parents.

What Did Parents Tell Us?

The consultation showed that parents are broadly supportive of our RSHE curriculum and recognise the important role it plays in safeguarding and preparing children for life.

Areas of Strong Support

Parents showed particularly strong support for:

- The Catholic ethos of the programme.
- The school's judgement in delivering RSHE.
- Online safety education.
- Safeguarding and child protection.
- Healthy relationships.
- The principle that parents are the first educators of their children.

Many parents recognised the importance of teaching children how to stay safe, seek help and develop healthy relationships.

Areas Where Views Were More Mixed

Parents generally supported:

- Puberty education.
- Teaching children about growing up.
- Learning about attraction and relationships.
- Discussions around discrimination and protected characteristics.

However, some parents asked for more information about how and when these topics are taught.

Areas Generating the Most Questions

A small number of parents expressed concerns about:

- Gender identity.
- Sexual orientation.
- Whether certain topics are age-appropriate.
- Access to information about lesson content.

Importantly, even where views differed, the consultation showed that concerns were generally focused on specific curriculum areas rather than opposition to RSHE as a whole.

Key Themes Identified

1. Parents Value Safeguarding

Parents strongly supported learning related to:

- Online safety.
- Abuse prevention.
- Puberty education.
- Keeping safe.
- Seeking help from trusted adults.

This reflects national priorities and the updated Department for Education (DfE) guidance which comes into effect from **September 2026**.

2. Parents Trust the School

The consultation identified high levels of trust in the school's professional judgement and values-led approach.

This is an important strength and helps us continue working in partnership with families.

3. Parents Want More Information

One of the strongest messages from parents was a desire for:

- Curriculum overviews.
- Advance notice of lessons.
- Access to teaching materials.
- Opportunities to discuss curriculum content.

This will be a key area of development moving forward.

What Will We Do Next?

The consultation has highlighted that our main priority is **communication and transparency**. The actions that we will take are highlighted in red.

In response, we will continue to:

- ☒ Share information about what is taught and when. *At the start of each academic year, we will share a yearly overview of what your child will be learning in their Key Stage (EYFS, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2). At the start of each term, you will receive an overview of what your child is learning about that term and the sequence of learning. Teachers will share with you via Class Dojo if a sensitive topic is to be taught in class.*
 - ☒ Provide opportunities for parents to view curriculum materials. *Access to the Life To The Full Parent Portal is currently available on the school website. However, to make this more accessible for you, the login details for the portal will be on all communications regarding RSHE meaning that you can view lesson content prior to learning taking place.*
 - ☒ Offer clear explanations about the safeguarding and educational reasons for curriculum content. *On the Life To The Full Parent Portal, parents can undertake a short course which fully outlines the ethos and design of the curriculum, including how it links to current government guidance. We will ensure that parents are able to access the portal by including all log-in details on any RSHE communications. Should parents have trouble accessing this, we are happy to arrange a convenient time to help them access the portal. Should there be any updates around the teaching of RSHE or the RSHE curriculum, we will inform parents at the earliest opportunity.*
 - ☒ Support parents in their role as the first educators of their children. *We are deeply committed to our partnership working with yourselves, and we are happy to provide any support that you should require in the delivery of RSHE. Please contact us should you require any support at any point during the school year.*
 - ☒ Continue listening to parental feedback as our curriculum develops. *We will continue to share further guidance on RSHE should there be any changes in updates, and value your feedback on these. We will carry out another Parent Consultation in the next academic year. You are always welcome to contact us if you wish to discuss any aspect of RSHE with us.*
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Changes to National RSHE Guidance from September 2026

New statutory DfE guidance comes into effect in schools from **September 2026**.

The updated guidance places increased emphasis on:

- Safeguarding.
- Online harms and digital safety.
- Healthy relationships.
- Child protection.
- Respectful behaviour.
- Working openly with parents.
- Access to curriculum materials.

As a school, we will continue to ensure our curriculum reflects both this statutory guidance and our Catholic values.

Teaching About Protected Characteristics

Parents asked questions about teaching linked to protected characteristics.

Schools are legally required to teach children about:

- Respect.
- Equality.
- Diversity.
- Bullying and discrimination.

This includes helping children understand that people should not be treated unfairly because of protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, including:

- Disability.
- Race.
- Religion or belief.
- Sex.
- Sexual orientation.
- Gender reassignment.

At primary school age, this is taught through themes such as:

- Respecting differences.
- Challenging bullying.

- Understanding different families.
- Treating all people with dignity and kindness.

The aim is not to tell children what they should believe, but to help them understand the law, show respect to others, and recognise discrimination when it occurs.

Can Children Be Withdrawn From These Lessons?

No.

Under statutory guidance, children **cannot be withdrawn from Relationships Education**, which includes teaching about:

- Families and relationships.
- Respectful behaviour.
- Anti-bullying education.
- Equality and protected characteristics.
- Safeguarding.
- Online safety.
- Health Education.

Some parents indicated during the consultation that they may wish to remove children from certain lessons. However, withdrawal rights do **not** apply to statutory Relationships Education or Health Education.

Schools have a legal duty to teach these areas to all pupils as part of the national curriculum and statutory RSHE requirements.

Key Message

The consultation showed that families are strongly supportive of the core aims of RSHE and recognise the importance of safeguarding, healthy relationships and child wellbeing. Parents have also asked for greater transparency around some topics, and this is something we are committed to strengthening moving forward.

As the new national guidance comes into effect from September 2026, we will continue to work in partnership with parents to ensure that RSHE remains age-appropriate, rooted in our Catholic ethos, and focused on helping children grow into safe, respectful and responsible young people.

Useful Links:

Statutory RSHE Guidance from the DfE [\[gov.uk\]](#),

‘New RSHE Guidance: What Parents Need To Know’ government blog
[\[educationh...log.gov.uk\]](#)