

What is my child being taught in PSHE?

PERSONAL, SOCIAL and HEALTH EDUCATION

Content

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is part of the curriculum in most schools. It can be taught as a separate subject, or incorporated into other parts of the curriculum. PSHE is also the medium through which citizenship; financial capability; economic well being; drug awareness; healthy living; diet, and sex and relationships education (SRE) are delivered.

Some elements of SRE are compulsory: primary schools must teach about puberty, human reproduction and growth, and secondary schools must provide a framework for teaching about sexuality and sexual health. Apart from this, parents currently have the right to remove their child from SRE lessons, although you may want to consider the implications and discuss it with your child before you choose to opt out. Children who don't attend SRE lessons are vulnerable to bullying and they will learn about sex anyway, just from changing room gossip, rather than a structured lesson led by a professional.

Underpinning values

The purpose of PSHE is to promote holistic development of pupils, prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities of later life, and to promote well being and social cohesion. Content will reflect the school's ethos and inform relationships within the school

community and church schools may teach from a biblical perspective.

'Secular thinking and contemporary cultural norms underpin much PSHE teaching'

Secular thinking and contemporary cultural norms underpin much PSHE teaching. Sex education, for example, concentrates less on loving relationships than on the mechanics of reproduction. Financial

education may include debt management. Lessons on keeping healthy include teaching about substance abuse, the dangers of alcohol and binge drinking. The weight of teaching is often about protecting oneself from abuse or harm whilst indulging in all that life can offer, rather than the enjoyment of God's gifts without abusing them for personal pleasure.

Curriculum changes

Early in 2014, the Education Select Committee conducted an in depth consideration of PSHE and SRE. Some MPs, health and education professionals are concerned that current provision

does not teach about revenge porn, child sexual exploitation, sexting, online grooming and LGBT/gender definition issues. The recommendation of the Committee was that PSHE/SRE should become compulsory, but that schools should form a parent/staff/governor/student group to define content and the right of opt out should be retained. The government has not adopted any of the report's recommendations as yet, but if an opportunity arises in your child's school to discuss or determine PSHE curriculum content, get involved.

Christian perspective

It is your responsibility as a Christian parent to prepare your child for life. Teachers may be the academic experts, but when it comes to morality, social development and life skills, the ball is in your court. You are entitled to view all SRE materials used in your child's school and to be told when they are going to be taught. Access the material, know what it contains, and talk with your child yourself about the content from a biblical perspective, before it is taught in school. If you disagree with the curriculum, write to the Head and governors, explaining your reasons.

'As a Christian, your life will often seem counter cultural, and your child needs to understand why.'

As a Christian, your life will often seem counter cultural and your child needs to understand why. You will be modelling stewardship of your financial resources and giving part of your income back to God. You believe that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and should not be abused. You view sex as a gift from God to be enjoyed within marriage, not as a casual leisure activity.

During the course of school life, your child will encounter all kinds of views, lifestyle choices and behaviours. Talk about them in the context of biblical principles, but also in an atmosphere of respect for people who live by different principles.

For more information:
PSHE

- Lovewise <http://lovewise.org.uk>