



Myth busting sheet for schools and families in Redbridge

This is a guidance document to support schools in answering questions that have been raised by parent and carers or raised and shared by the community in Redbridge via social media platforms during the RSHE consultation process so far.

(Some myths and wording have also been taken from the Newham Myth busting sheet developed by RE Matters and REALationships).

Correct	Incorrect or Redbridge Local Authority and Schools <u>are not...</u>
Myth 1. 'Schools are teaching children to have sex'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As part of RSHE in some primary schools and as part of Science in all secondary schools, children and young people are taught about human reproduction, but schools are not teaching or encouraging children or young people to have sex. Schools are giving them the skills and knowledge to make intelligent healthy decisions when they do decide to have sex, in line with their own morality, beliefs and their aspirations for their future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Being dishonest or hiding outcomes of the RSHE curriculum from families. × Teaching how babies are made in Primary school from a Scientific perspective if a family has opted for their child to be withdrawn.
Myth 2. 'Schools are teaching children to masturbate'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Schools may talk about wet dreams and erections as part of puberty, especially for the boys who may become aware of these changes to their bodies. ✓ Schools will teach children about the correct names for external body parts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Teaching children about topics which are not age appropriate or student sensitive, following consultation. × Ignoring many elements of safeguarding within the RSHE guidance which are a school priority.
Myth 3. 'No-one considers a pupil's religious beliefs when teaching RSHE'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Schools should be mindful of all their pupils' backgrounds when teaching RSHE, whatever that may be. Redbridge, because of our commitment to respecting differing faith groups, as well as other backgrounds our pupils may have, has employed an RSHE advisor, who is also working alongside the DfE and the RSHE and RE advisors in Newham; one of whom has completed an extensive research study, using the voices of young people to explore what constitutes good quality, faith- and student-sensitive RSHE. This research, carried out at UCL Institute of Education, fits well with the borough's commitment to student-sensitive RSHE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Ignoring faith beliefs when teaching RSHE or suggesting a moral opinion. × Ignoring the UK Law and human rights.

<p>This has also informed the training concerning RSHE. It is important that whilst faith is respected and also talked about in RSHE, so are other belief systems, and RSHE should be sensitive to pupils or students from all differing backgrounds.</p>	
<p>Myth 4. 'Schools are promoting LGBT+ relationships'</p>	
<p>✓ Schools will be talking about LGBT+ relationships and families in an age-appropriate way in RSHE. All people and loving families, including those who are LGBT+, have much to give society. Schools have a duty to present modern British society and educate children and young people about diversity, inclusion, and equality for all groups, including faith groups, as mentioned in the Equality Act 2010. Pupil- and student-sensitive RSHE can also be used to make sure other children and young people from minority groups not mentioned in the 2010 Act are included and valued too; children such as looked after children.</p> <p>✓ "Parents who object to same-sex relationships or who do not accept non-conformist gender identities are, of course, free to make this clear to their children - whether those views are the product of religion or not. Indeed, that is their right and it is protected under the ECHR. But the existence of LGBT+ people and same-sex parents is not a "belief". It is a fact, and it may be a fact which pupils, their friends, relatives and/or parents are living with. As such, parents' ECHR and EA rights do not give them the right to impose their views on others, much less to discriminate against or otherwise harm people because of their protected characteristics. This is of particular relevance when they seek to do so via a public body, such as a school." (Liberty 2019)</p>	<p>× Advocating LGBT+ relationships over any other relationship.</p> <p>× Making any moral suggestions on behalf of the young person and their choices.</p> <p>× Teaching content that is not age appropriate or sensitive in approach.</p> <p>× Using resources/outside speakers that have not been vetted by school.</p>

Myth 5. 'Parental rights have been removed'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As part of our robust consultation, in Redbridge, we acknowledge the role of parents/carers as the primary educator on many of the topics within the RSHE guidance and are working from a position of transparency with the Redbridge community to reflect the voice and choice of all. Schools and the Local Authority will consult with families during the process and this will be reflected when each school personalise the model policy. ✓ Schools will share some teaching resources to support the conversations both at home and in school; building a great partnership for the children/young people. ✓ Schools and the LA will work with parents/carers to explain the rationale for teaching good, age appropriate RSHE so that families feel informed and build an aspiration that most support the teaching of all RSHE elements. ✓ Detail the legal rights of parents to withdraw in their school policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Promoting the opinions of some parents/carers over the opinions of others.
Myth 6. 'Ofsted inspectors cannot speak to pupils about RSHE topics'	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In accordance with the updated guidance published in September 2020 inspectors "have a duty to 'have regard' to the views of pupils. However, if a pupil or parent refuses permission an inspector cannot compel the pupil to give their view". ✓ If inspectors are not able to interact with any pupils without another adult present this will be reflected in the overall inspection report as it may raise safeguarding concerns which could result in safeguarding being judged as ineffective. ✓ Similarly, regarding discussing sensitive topics such as LGBT+ issues with pupils, schools will be asked to inform the inspectors about the school's curriculum to assure leaders and parents that no 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Withdrawing a child from conversations with inspectors will have no impact on the overall OFSTED outcome. × If the school has asked inspectors not to ask certain questions that they deem sensitive for its pupils, inspectors will do it anyway.

<p>inappropriate questions in accordance to the school's policy of RSHE are asked.</p> <p>✓ Any withdrawal from interactions will be noted in the OFSTED report and how it has impacted upon the outcome (this will not identify the pupil/s concerned).</p>	
<p>Myth 7. 'DfE has issued additional Statutory guidance in September 2020 detailing resources and more'</p>	
<p>✓ The Department for Education has shared additional information and guidance to schools to support schools in planning and implementing the new statutory guidance.</p> <p>✓ The guidance is all for information purpose only and the only statutory requirements of schools are labelled as such.</p> <p>✓ Schools continue to be able to make judgements on using external resources/agencies that enhance teaching in their professional opinion, these must be age appropriate and evidence based, schools are encouraged to share some of their teaching resources with families.</p>	<p>× That all previous resources used for schools will no longer be appropriate.</p>