

Key questions on the government's new PSHE education requirements

1. What are the new requirements?

- **On 19 July 2018 the government confirmed¹ that it will be compulsory for all schools to teach the health and relationships aspects of PSHE education from 2020.** This commitment to health education joins the 2017 commitments to compulsory relationships and sex education (RSE) in all secondary schools, and mandatory 'relationships education' in all primary schools.
- **PSHE education was already mandatory in independent schools but these measures extend requirements to *all* school types.**

2. Why is this so important?

- **PSHE education has proven impact but has suffered from reduced curriculum time and patchy provision. This strengthening of its status can have a major impact on the quality of PSHE in all schools, for all pupils.** When delivered well, PSHE has proven benefits to health, wellbeing and academic success². These developments mean that all pupils can benefit from an education that keeps them safe, healthy and prepared for the realities of modern life – and this should be celebrated.
- **It recognises the growing momentum behind PSHE for all:** The PSHE Association is delighted by these developments given that we have led a campaign for compulsory PSHE for 10 years, supported by 100 leading organisations – including the NCPCC, Barnardo's, teaching unions – and 92% of parents, 92% of pupils, 88% of teachers.

3. How will schools deliver this?

- **Many schools are well on the way to delivering these commitments. 85% of schools already teach PSHE that covers health and relationships. The new requirements are about 'levelling up' of PSHE standards across all schools.** Education secretary Damian Hinds was clear when announcing the new requirements³ that schools covering health and relationships education effectively through PSHE should continue to do so. This will also help ensure the new requirements and guidance are implementable for busy schools.
- **The PSHE Association will work with schools, unions and partners to ensure effective and deliverable implementation of the new requirements.** Teaching unions NAHT, NEU and ASCL strongly support compulsory PSHE and now that these requirements are in place the PSHE Association looks forward to working closely with them, the Department for Education, national partners and our membership to ensure all schools are 'PSHE ready' in advance of 2020.

4. What will 'health education' and rse/relationships education cover?

- **Draft guidance for both the health and RSE aspects of PSHE was published on the 19 July⁴. A consultation is now open on the guidance until November 2018.** Once feedback is incorporated the guidance and regulations will be subject to parliamentary debate before being finalised. Final guidance should be available to schools in 2019, but not compulsory until September 2020. Schools can do much to prepare in advance though (see 'What support is available?' below).
- **There is much to welcome in the guidance, though we will suggest changes to make it work best for schools and students.** The Association is carrying out a detailed analysis of the new guidance and will use this to inform our official response. Initial feelings are largely positive, in that it covers broad areas of PSHE of particular relevance and concern to young people today. Now every child, in every school, will be guaranteed a PSHE education that covers mental health and wellbeing, physical health (including healthy lifestyles and first aid) and learning about safe, healthy relationships, including understanding consent and negotiating life online.

5. What about economic wellbeing, careers and employability?

- **All schools should continue to prioritise the aspects of PSHE education that concern economic wellbeing, careers, enterprise and employability.** The Bank of England, Young Enterprise, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Financial Education and others see PSHE as a means to deliver this vital learning to all. It was disappointing therefore that the government hasn't yet made the same commitments to the economic wellbeing and preparation for work strands of PSHE education. Schools should however continue to prioritise this area of PSHE education . . .
- . . . **otherwise the 'personal' aspects of economic wellbeing will be lost.** PSHE complements the financial education covered through Citizenship and Maths, but is the subject through which the personal aspects of economic wellbeing – for example understanding personal debt, positive/negative financial risk, being entrepreneurial – and preparing for the world of work are covered⁵.
- **Health, relationships, economic wellbeing and having the knowledge and skills for successful careers are all linked. PSHE is the glue that binds them together.** PSHE gathers all of these aspects of preparing for modern life together into a coherent curriculum subject. Schools that already prioritise this strand of PSHE shouldn't feel any need to unpick what they're already doing well in preparing students for life and work.

6. What support and training is available/will be available to schools?

- **Our vision for 2020 is that high quality, regular PSHE lessons will be delivered in many more schools, for many more pupils by trained and supported teachers.**
- **We will work hard to ensure that the PSHE education workforce is ready for 2020.** We will continue to develop and make available our range of training, resources and support to help ensure all schools are 'PSHE ready' by 2020, and work in partnership with other organisations and unions to support this work. We will explore and deliver innovative, evidence-based approaches to helping schools deliver these requirements in a meaningful way.
- **Remember, we're not starting from scratch but building on some great work from schools across the country.** Many schools are doing a great job of delivering high quality PSHE education. We will support them to continue this work, and support other schools to implement PSHE that matches these high standards.
- **Schools can do a lot to prepare now.** Our CPD training⁶, member resources (such as our recently published RSE planning toolkits⁷) and support available from the likes of the Sex Education Forum will help ensure you're ahead of the game when it comes to planning. We will continue to co-develop, quality assure and highlight resources published by others; recent examples include the NSPCC 'Making sense of relationships' materials⁸ and updated 'Disrespect NoBody' resources from the Home Office.

1 <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/news/government-takes-%E2%80%98major-step%E2%80%99-towards-better-pshe>

2 <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/curriculum-life-case-statutory-pshe-education>

3 <https://twitter.com/PSHEassociation/status/1019919076037201923>

4 <https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/>

5 <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/pshe-and-economic-wellbeing>

6 <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/cpd-and-training>

7 <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/preparing-statutory-rse-and-relationships>

8 <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/nsppcc-%E2%80%98making-sense-relationships%E2%80%99-lesson-plans>