

Relationships Education

Right to Withdraw from Twinkl Life RSE Lessons

What is the 'right to withdraw'?

The right to withdraw allows parents and carers to request that their child does not participate in certain lessons at school. Parents and carers may only request their child be withdrawn from parts of the curriculum which are non-statutory.



Which parts of Relationships and Sex Education can parents and carers withdraw their child from?

From September 2020, Relationships Education will be statutory for all primary children, in all primary schools. This means that parents and carers cannot withdraw their child from these lessons. However, they will be able to request that their child is withdrawn from lessons about Sex Education taught as part of Relationships Education, which are not statutory objectives covered in the science national curriculum.

In year 2, children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They should be introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth but not how reproduction occurs.

In year 5, children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including reproduction. They also learn about the changes that happen in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning what happens in puberty.

When teaching the Twinkl Life Relationships scheme of work, it is important to know which lessons are compulsory for all children and which lessons parents and carers may request to withdraw their child from.

In our scheme, parents and carers may wish to withdraw their child from lessons that contain learning on male and female body parts, the purpose of male and female genitalia, how babies are conceived, how babies are born, what a sexual relationship is, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases. This content accounts for five lessons of the Twinkl Life Relationships Education scheme; all of these lessons are in the Growing Up units.

How can our school support carers who wish to withdraw their child from parts of the curriculum?

Schools should ensure that all parents and carers are made fully aware of the school's Relationship Education curriculum and provision. This should be done through clear, regular communication and the sharing of documents such as the school's Relationships Education policy.

A parent or carer who wishes to withdraw their child from part or all of the sex education curriculum should be listened to and respected. If possible, schools should discuss the importance of this education with parents and carers, explicitly sharing the benefits of participation and potential issues associated with being withdrawn from the learning, but ultimately, the school must support the parent or carer's right to withdraw their child from these lessons.

What supporting resources are available?

This guidance should be used alongside the [Twinkl Life Relationships Education Overview](#), which details the objectives for each lesson and states which lessons parents and carers may request that their child is withdrawn from.

An editable [Relationships Education Sample Policy](#) is available through Twinkl Life, as well as a [Right to Withdraw Letter Template](#) to send home to parents and carers.