OUTSPOKEN Sex Ed

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THIS WORKSHOP WILL...

- Get you thinking about changes in parental attitudes towards sex ed
- Explain some of the findings from our parent focus-group research
- Explain our approach to parental engagement
- Involve you in an Outspoken activity for engaging parents

BACKGROUND

- Yoan Reed SEF Advisory group member; relationships and sex education (RSE) consultant; health professional; MA in International Child Studies
- Leah Jewett Former Guardian/Observer deputy chief sub-editor; writer; RSE group facilitator and trainer
- Outspoken Sex Ed Social enterprise / community interest company (CIC); established 2017; presentations for schools, parent groups, RSE conferences, corporates

Sex Education Forum best-practice poster (2017)

Is an identifiable part of a personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum, which has planned, timetabled lessons across all the **Key Stages**

We are

and sex

which:

education,

committed to

relationships

Is taught by staff regularly trained in RSE and PSHE (with expert visitors invited in to enhance and supplement the programme where appropriate)

Works in partnership with parents and carers, informing them about what their children will be learning and about how they can contribute at home

Delivers lessons where pupils feel safe and encourages participation by using a variety of teaching approaches with opportunities to develop critical thinking and relationship skills

Is based on reliable sources of information. including about the law and legal rights, and distinguishes between fact and opinion

Promotes safe, equal, caring and enjoyable relationships and discusses real-life issues appropriate to the age and stage of pupils, including friendships, families, consent, relationship abuse, sexual exploitation and safe relationships online

Gives pupils opportunities to reflect on values and influences (such as from peers, media, faith and culture) that may shape their attitudes to relationships and sex, and nurtures respect for different views

Includes learning about how to get help and treatment from sources such as the school nurse and other health and advice services, including reliable information online

12.

Seeks pupils' views about RSE so that teaching can be made relevant to their real lives and assessed and adapted as their needs change

10.

Fosters gender equality and LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans) equality and challenges all forms of discrimination in RSE lessons and in every-day school life

11.

Meets the needs of all pupils with their diverse experiences including those with special educational needs and disabilities

supported by a wide range of organisations. The purpose of RSE is to help children and young people to be safe, healthy and happy as they grow up and in their future lives. RSE must always be appropriate to pupils' age and stage of development and is an essential part of safeguarding. The law requires that, from September 2016, relationships and sex education (RSE) is study in all secondary schools in England, and that relationships education is taught in all primary schools in England, in addition, National Curriculum Science' ("Which is taught in maintained schools) includes some elements of sex education.

Gives a positive view of

human sexuality, with honest

and medically accurate

information, so that pupils can

learn about their bodies and

sexual and reproductive health

in ways that are appropriate

to their age and maturity

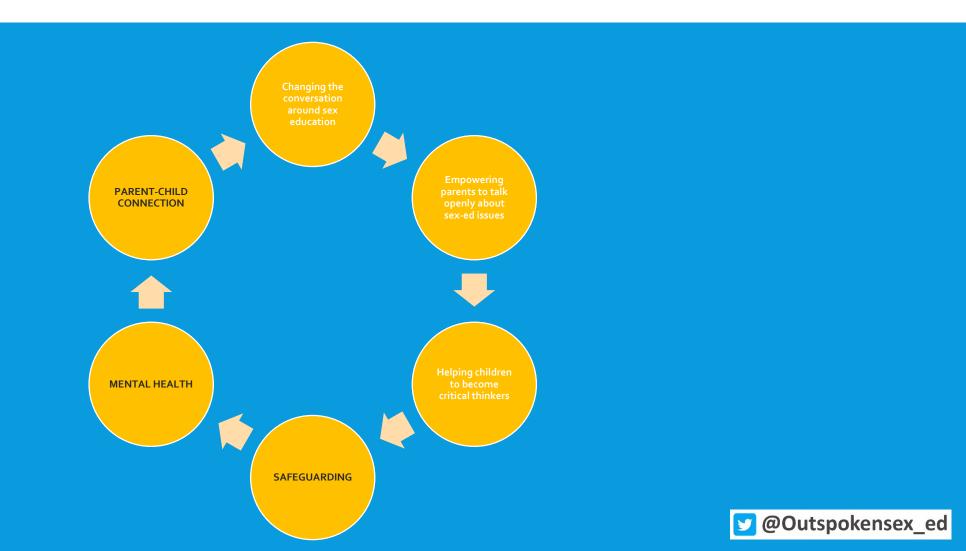
NSPCC







AIMS UNDERPINNED BY CORE PRINCIPLES



GROUP DISCUSSION

Is parental reaction to sex ed changing?

Share your thoughts on parents'...

- interest in sex ed
- engagement at home / involvement with schools
- barriers / challenges

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT IN SEX ED IS EFFECTIVE WHEN...

Schools work in partnership with parents

Parents are valued as children's primary educators

Parents are supported in their role as sex educators

Sex ed is underpinned by an agreed values framework

Peer parent sex educators help develop school-parent partnership

Parents are consulted regularly on the content

DfE SRE Guidance (2000)

GETTING PARENTS ON BOARD



PARTICIPATION Parents empowered by working together with school to shape sex ed in its development, planning and delivery

CONSULTATION Parents are asked about their thoughts on how RSE is planned and delivered to help develop sex ed

INFORMATION Parents are given information from school on how sex ed is delivered, including resources used

NON-ENGAGEMENT Parents do not know how sex ed is developed, planned or delivered

Adapted from Hart's "Ladder of Participation" (1992)



BENEFITS OF PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT IN SEX ED

For children...

- ©Critical thinking through parental safeguarding
- Improved mental health, self-esteem, confidence and resilience
- Strengthened parent-child connection

For parents...

- Understanding the comprehensive nature of sex ed
- Acquiring skills, tools, language and confidence
- Strengthened parent-child connection

For schools...

- Whole-school approach to sex ed
- Improved home-school partnership
- Strengthening an agreed values framework



RESEARCH WITH PARENTS

- 2017 dissertation on parental engagement in sex ed for MA in International Child Studies
- Small qualitative study

Separate-gender focus groups with mothers and fathers

Analysis of findings using grounded theory

PARENTAL NEEDS

EXPLICIT NEEDS	EXPLICIT NEEDS WITH IMPLICIT ELEMENTS	IMPLICIT NEEDS
Content and context for RSE resources	Parent education	Rights holders of RSE
Imparting family, religious, and cultural values	Improved school-home communication	Understanding comprehensive RSE

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

- Saalima: The way our school was doing it, it was right under our nose. We didn't even KNOW about it. It's a horrible way to be teaching children, without the parents aware.
- Amana: Yeah, because the law is that, you know, that parents should be informed.
- Saalima: Should be.
- Amana: But in practice it's not, it's not what it is

Mothers in a focus group

PROTECTION OR IGNORANCE?

When the girls were younger the NSPCC was running PANTS – you must teach your children that pants are private, which I think is a fantastic sentiment but actually it caused a little bit of difficulty.

"Why are my pants private?"

"Well, there are people in the world that might be trying to do things to you."

And that's the bit that then becomes really tricky, because they start to worry too much

Mother in a focus group



THE POWER OF FOCUS GROUPS

Do I see the value in investing time in doing something like this?

Yes, I do — and actually as a resource it's probably better than anything that I'd get out of a book or video.

Would I sign up to this focus group now that I've experienced it?

I could do this once every six weeks or something...

Father in focus group



DRAW AND WRITE ACTIVITY

- Imagine being the parent of a child aged 9-11. Write your child's gender(s)
 on page 1
- 2. Draw what your child imagines they will look like in 3-4 years' time getting ready to go out to meet friends. What are they wearing, what is in their bag? What are they thinking/feeling?
- 3. Draw what your child imagines they will look like in 3-4 years' time getting out of the shower, looking in the mirror. What do they see? Label/draw their body parts. What are they thinking/feeling?
- 4. Draw or write how your child feels about growing up.
 What questions do they have?

DRAW AND WRITE ACTIVITY

- Established needs-assessment method
- Can be adapted to different topics/age groups/ability
- Particularly good for groups of parents from the same cohort
- Be sensitive to religious beliefs/modesty
- Best done after creating a working agreement and values framework
- Requires good facilitation



YOUR FEEDBACK...

What did you think of the content?

How did you find the activity?

Yoan Reed & Leah Jewett

