

OUTSPOKEN Sex Ed

Yoan Reed & Leah Jewett

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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

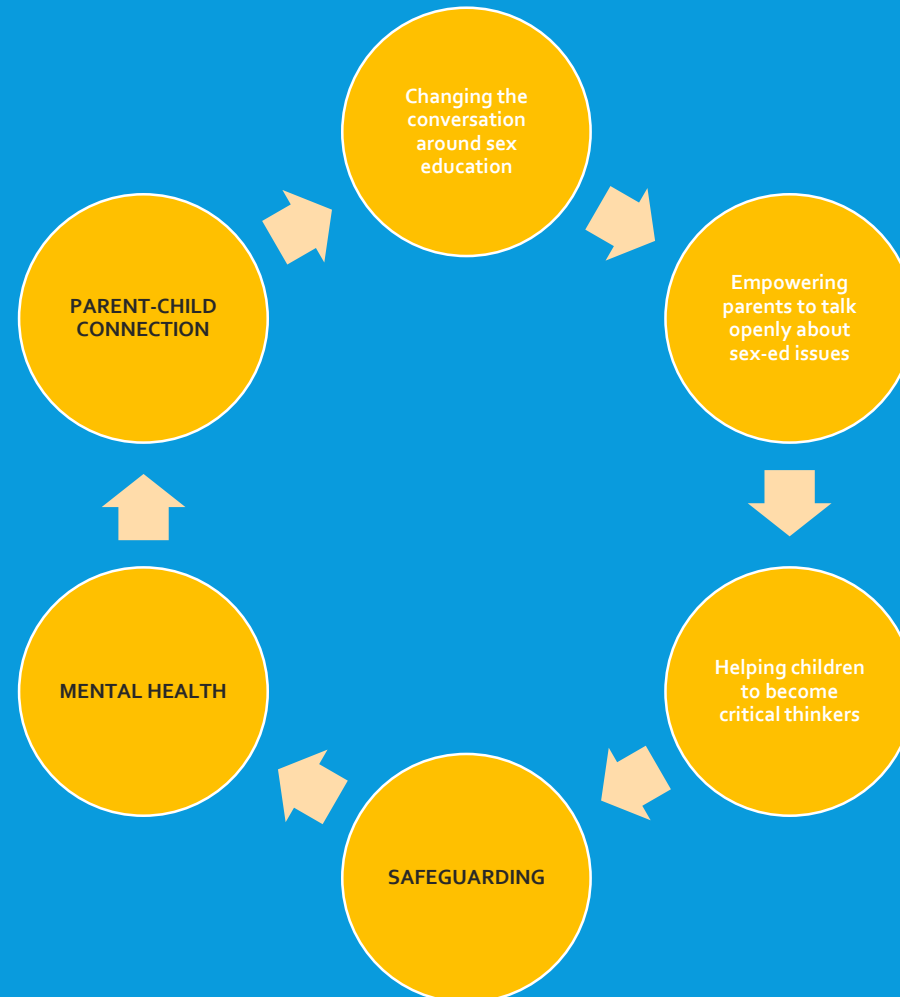
BACKGROUND

- **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)



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

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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...

- ⑩ Critical thinking through parental safeguarding
- ⑩ Improved mental health, self-esteem, confidence and resilience
- ⑩ Strengthened parent-child connection

For parents...

- ⑩ Understanding the comprehensive nature of sex ed
 - Acquiring skills, tools, language and confidence
 - Strengthened parent-child connection

For schools...

- ⑩ Whole-school approach to sex ed
- ⑩ 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?

Adapted from "Health for Life" by Wetton & Williams (2000)

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?

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