

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG3B-N

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-25 15:12:05

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Ellie Clarke

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Teachers

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Teachers who have been properly trained in delivering the curriculum instead of simply being handed resources and left to their own devices

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Because COVID interrupted my own learning from Year 8-10, RSE classes were very sporadic or sometimes absent for long periods of time. We did learn about abortion, homophobia, STDs and had lessons on spotting negative traits within a relationship, mostly within the context of the Christian faith and how the Catholic Church takes a view on these issues. The negative impacts of drugs, alcohol and addiction were a huge element of any RSE or LLW class.

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

In RSE we were taught very little or nothing about the female anatomy/women's health, especially about menstruation and feminine hygiene, which I think is importantly for all students to learn about, not just the female students. Contraception was only discussed briefly as part of the Biology curriculum, but within RSE, we were mostly taught that contraception exists, but that the Church disagrees with its use. I think talking about the use of contraception outside of heterosexual relationships would also be of use to the LGBTQ+ students. I think that classes should also discuss pornography, misogyny, rape, and assault, as these are issues that concern a lot of students within the country, and the first step to prevention is education.

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

I think that opting a child out of RSE has very few benefits; its only effect is that it puts a child behind in their knowledge of their own anatomy, safety and the world around them. Many parents don't want their child to hear about abortion, homosexuality, drugs, contraception, pornography, etc, for fear that their child will seek those things out. But regardless of whether or not a child is taught about these subjects in RSE, in the real world they will come across all kinds of people, problems and challenges in which they have to face up to those subjects, and their lack of education in those areas will only disadvantage them. Hearing about abortion and drugs does not make a young person more inclined to get an abortion or take drugs; oftentimes, a lack of support in their home life, poverty, or other wider social issues drive them to do these things their parents' fear— not RSE lessons.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

A child should have the right to be consulted about their own education: they may not want to be made apart from their peers, especially concerning lessons that make them more aware of their own body and the world around them.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Rape and sexual assault is a growing fear for a lot of young people, especially young women, like myself, and it eases a lot of my discomfort in seeing lessons on consent being taken seriously by both teachers and my male peers. While I know that there will always be rapists in our society, I feel safer seeing others police their friends' behaviours surrounding consent.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

RSE Teacher's should deliver lessons around once a week, for 30mins to an hour. They need more support regarding their classes, especially a more rigid curriculum to follow. The curriculum should be expanded to include education on homosexual relationships, especially concerning the danger of STIs and STDs. I'd like more education regarding women's health, and reproductive health in general. I want more curriculums to deal with difficult topics, especially for older students; to talk about rape, violence against domestic partners, consent, pornography, trafficking, and how to report and spot cases of abuse, exploitation, etc: these are the life skills that RSE should lend us, especially given the climate of violence in Northern Irish news right now.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG3C-P

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-21 15:22:48

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Beth Gold

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Teachers and other outside groups.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

We need more practical support.

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

### Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

We need to know about all these things and sometimes it is better learning about it all together in school and from a teacher.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

We should have a say in whether we are removed or not. This is information we need as as grow up.

### Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

### Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

We need more regular teaching in RSE. Teachers and parents shouldn't be scared about teaching us these topics or us learning about them. They're important to help us become adults. It's good sometimes to have other people come in to school too, because it can bring a fresh perspective for us and different material.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

### Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG3D-Q

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-19 07:23:16

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Fionn McCoy

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Northern Ireland Youth Assembly

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

We haven't been consulted or been made aware of a RSE policy in my school.

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

An outside organisation (someone who comes into your school)

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I think they are good but not taught on a regular basis twice per academic year maximum

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

I think no as they get an outside organisation to speak to us about RSE.

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Teachers in particular form teachers as they usually have the best relationship with their form group.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

As they are most likely not getting taught it at home and it is something that really needs to get taught.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Yes they needed to understand why it is important but if a child and parent want to opt out I think they should be able to.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

No

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

As it is important in latter life

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

More scientific facts rather an outside organisations who are tailored to the schools ethos.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

## Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG3F-S

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-28 15:09:18

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Danielle Roberts

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

I have responded to previous consultations on RSE but while at school I was never asked about my opinion.

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

RSE was delivered as part of biology and as a stand alone one off talk with an external organisation. The biology lessons focused mainly on reproduction but did also discuss STIs. The one off sessions focused on puberty and periods. There was one session in year 8 and one in year 11. These were fine but limited as only about puberty and periods, and only delivered to the girls.

I know more recently my old school has had love for life deliver one day RSE sessions and I am very concerned about that as they focus on abstinence and don't talk about consent and healthy relationships.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

Provided they are trained to deliver I see no issue with teachers delivering RSE.

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Teachers as part of regular curriculum, we need to stop treating RSE as a taboo subject. If outside organisations are used these should not be religious and should be inclusive of LGBTQ+ relationships, not moralising but practical when it comes to pregnancy prevention and abortion, consent and healthy relationships must also be included in the curriculum.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

Currently RSE is not comprehensive and is too brief. It does not equip young people to recognize abuse or to know what a healthy relationship is. Currently it is hit and miss whether a young person is given all the information they need about contraception, abortion, preventing STIs. Some external organisations also preach about abstinence and exclude LGBTQ+ relationships.

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

The mechanics of conception and birth.  
Periods and puberty.  
Limited information on contraception and safer sex.

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Consent and healthy relationships.  
Options on contraception and abortion.

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

There is a focus on man/woman marriage.

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

This is dangerous. If there is abuse in the home a parent could prevent their child from learning that they are experiencing abuse. Also if a parent is homophobic or transphobic they could prevent their children learning about LGBTQ+ relationships, which would be particularly damaging for LGBTQ+ kids.

RSE must be delivered to every child. Children and young people have a right to this information and their right to learn and to be able to exercise their rights to bodily autonomy and health are paramount.

RSE would be age appropriate, factual, and delivered by trained teachers, just like any other subject. We wouldn't let a parent opt their child out of geography because they believe the earth is flat.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

The rights of the child to learn must not only be considered but be paramount in the balancing of the rights of the parent and child.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

No

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Numerous studies have shown a misunderstanding of consent, which often fuels victim blaming narratives and even prevents people knowing what they experienced was abuse. This is clear from the Gillen review, the NIHRC research locally and global studies particularly on the attitudes of boys and men. Consent must be taught as well as healthy relationships for us to change the culture. This work is already being done by organisations like Raise Your Voice, ICNI and Common Youth.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

There is not only a need for change, but an undelivered legal obligation. The law change in 2019 and subsequent 2023 regulations put this duty on both Westminster and the Assembly to ensure RSE is comprehensive, factually based and scientifically accurate, and included information on abortion. The fact the committee is asking 'Do you think there is a need for changes' is really unnecessary and suggests this is an issue for debate when really it is a settled legal position.

The NIHRC report has many examples of good practice. Age appropriate RSE should be integrated into every stage of schooling and not relegated to a one off session. It should be delivered by teachers to avoid stigmatizing RSE - this is information that all young people need and should not be treated as taboo. The minimum content order must be revised and all schools must deliver the same level of RSE to ensure no children are misinformed or failed by the system.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

We don't need this mini inquiry, we should have had a new curriculum a long time ago. We have CEDAW recommendations incorporated into domestic legislation which outlines the needs for change and what the new RSE curriculum should contain. We shouldn't be discussing this any more, it's 5 years since the law change we should have had action by now.

Young people, teaching unions, academics, the women's sector, the LGBTQ+ sector and more have been calling for change for decades. UN CEDAW has found that there needs to be a change and this was made into a legal obligation at Westminster in 2019. No more delays, no more consultations when it is clear what needs done, every year another cohort of young people will leave school and the opportunity to educate them is missed.

## Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG3J-W

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-27 22:12:22

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Stacey Rea

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Private person

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

No I'm an ex Catholic grammar school pupil

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Teachers

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

Yes but they shouldn't have been, our teacher was an ex nun who was also a virgin

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

I'm happy for teachers to teach it, if they have the proper qualifications - including science and psychology background. Being a religion teacher who attended a course is not enough

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

Not at all. One of our 'lessons' was about how 'a girl older than us (she was named!) used a mars bar wrapper as a condom. We were 14

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Nothing educational or informative or inclusive. I attended assumption grammar school in Ballynahinch. I'm 34 but to my knowledge, it's generally the same

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Consent. Sexual assault. Less guilt. Different sexual orientation

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It's part of their education - a parent can choose to do an extra curricular explanation or education if they so wish, but this is more fundamental than English it could be argued.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

I believe the discussion should happen for understanding, not that they shouldn't be taught. It's likely they are reticent due to fear or home life

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

No

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Of course it is

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

Rse should be continuous - especially to A level when people are more likely to be sexually active

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG7B-S

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-13 16:34:35

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Charlotte Strange

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Youth Assembly

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

It is better and more helpful as the outside organisation are more specialised than the teachers

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

A mix of both LLW teachers as well as guests from outside of school organisations specific to the topic being taught

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Building helping relationships/ how to recognise unhealthy ones  
Dangers of social media and how to be safe online as a young person  
How to look after our mental health  
Diversity and equality

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Abortion and teenage pregnancy has never been taught about

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

I think it should be a young persons right to be taught RSE without a parent infiltrating as it is so important that all young people are equally made aware of the topics discussed in the subject so they know for example how to look after their reproductive health or access abortion etc. and help prevent bullying or lack of safety online

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It should be their decision as to whether they consent to being taught RSE without their decision being swayed by a parent

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

The teaching can help prevent serious crimes and can support young people who are victims of not consenting to get help. Also give young people a greater awareness of sexuality

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

I would like to see that parents can no longer opt their child out of the very vital part of their education!

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::



## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG7D-U

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-02 18:00:11

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Donal Mullan

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Youth assembly

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

I do not think I have been asked

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I think it's good but a lot of other people don't care less

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

Some say they have training

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Qualified people who work at it

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

It helps them learn about it

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

There has been little training

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Yes more of it

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

They should always have the option

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

If they don't want to do it they don't have to it can be personal

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

So people what to do and what not to do

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

People should know the basic rse delivered by an experienced person

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG7E-V

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-07 07:27:26

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

Weronika McNulty

2 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I believe that it can sometimes be a good thing as we get to see what others think and may be exposed to a different perspective on something.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Prefer not to say

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

It really depends on the teacher, the part of RSE they are delivering and the maturity/ seriousness of the class.

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

I think it should be a mixture of teachers, outside organisations and a 'representative' of religious beliefs about the topic if the school has a religious ethos.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Consent, social media, bullying,

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

The parents' views should be respected.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Yes but only from a certain age eg. Year 12.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It is an important element of relationships with all people

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

Overall I think that the RSE curriculum is delivered well but I think that topics such as consent and online image/bullying should be delivered earlier as young people are much more mature/ know much more than what adults may think.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

## Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG7G-X

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-02 20:41:29

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Cillian

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Teachers

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Confident teachers

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Consent  
Sexual harassment  
Sexuality

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

### Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It's not their choice, for those of sixth form age they're old enough to make their own decisions.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Prefer not to say

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

### Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

### Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

LGBTQ+ should be included

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

### Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG7J-1

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-16 17:26:02

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

Ray

2 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Student

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Unsure

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Outside organisations

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Sex education and lgbtq education

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

### Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Because it's important for kids to learn these things regardless of their parents views

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

### Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

### Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

### Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG7Q-8

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-02 17:51:35

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

lila

2 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Youth assembly

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Unsure

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

teachers

outside charity/organisation

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

### Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

### Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

they may not think their child has the emotional maturity to understand the topics

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

No

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

at a certain age everyone should have to have RSE

### Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

key part of life and very important for safety

### Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

should be a govt. organisation or scheme running in all school at different levels that the school should select

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

### Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG7V-D

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-04 19:37:31

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

Yvaine Parsons

2 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Northern Ireland Youth Assembly

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

No I've not

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Teachers

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

I think that specialised RSE teachers should be the ones to teach RSE

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Pregnancy, Equity, equality and staying safe online+ a bit about relationships and child groomers

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

I would like to learn about;

- LGBTQ
- Male things
- Drugs ( how to identify if you or someone you know is drunk or drugged)
- Family dynamics

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Prefer not to say

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Because it's the child living and not the parent, and RSE is ment to prepare the child for life. If the child isn't getting taught RSE then they won't be able to prepare for life and so be unable to live independently.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Because the child should always have a say if it is something that will effect them especially if that something is essential to the child's education.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Because if you are never taught about consent the you will never know how to say no or be aware that they can say no.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

I think that all teachers should have at least some basic training on RSE and that there should be at least one specialist teacher in that subject. This will help them gain confidence and allow the to be more knowledgeable on this subject.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG7Y-G

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-03 10:01:40

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Northern Ireland Youth Assembly

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Northern Ireland Youth Assembly

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

The vast majority of Youth Assembly Members (98%) said they had not been asked their opinion on their schools' RSE policy or how RSE is taught. One member said they had been asked about the RSE policy one year ago. There was a survey for pupils. She has not yet been made aware of the results. Another Member tried to access their schools's RSE policy on the school website. She was told it is not publicly available and is only available on request from the school office.

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

Regarding question 5

Around half of Youth Assembly Members said teachers deliver this. The other half said it was a mixture of teachers and outside organisations. One person said it was delivered by an outside organisation only.

Outside organisations included: Love for Life, Women's Aid, Cara Friend.

One Member said that the Women's Aid presentation was very outdated and irrelevant. It was held in a very large session of 180 young people. Noone felt comfortable putting up their hand or asking questions. Quote: " it was very awkward!"

Approx one tenth of Members said they had never had RSE lesson which they say is worrying as they are now in the 15-17 age bracket.

Some Members said that RSE happens in whole year group, assembly style sessions during PE/ games lessons.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

Members were split on this question. Approx 60% said that teachers are not confident when delivering RSE lessons but that it very much depends on the teacher. It can be a sensitive subject.

Some Members said that teachers do not teach RSE at all in their school.

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Quote: "We need specialised teachers, properly trained, who have up to date information. There should be at least one such teacher in each school who leads on RSE."

Members reported that it often seems to fall to biology teachers to cover RSE topics.

Sometimes outside organisations aren't respected. "We trust our teachers and have built up relationships such as with a form teacher who we know well and who know us and the issues there are among our group. On the other hand, it depends on the teacher, there are some teachers who we may not want to teach this topic to us".

Members discussed if the gender of teacher was important. Many of the female Members said that they are more comfortable if a female teacher covers RSE lessons particularly for topics like puberty.

Some of the boys in all-boys schools reported that they didn't have lessons on topics like periods.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

The vast majority of Youth Assembly Members (70%) said that the current RSE provision in their schools is not providing them with the necessary life-skills. The LLW/RSE lesson is often used to revise or do homework.

Some Members said that they get information from parents or peers rather than school.

Some Members said that RSE is not offered in Year 13/14 as it is not on the statutory curriculum yet they felt it is even more important for young people aged 16-18 to continue to have opportunities to learn about RSE.

Some Members feel that RSE information is quite biased depending on the school/teacher. Members reported that topics aren't covered or are heavily influenced by the school ethos.

Members feel that RSE is not always inclusive around issues like LGBTQ+. Sometimes teachers avoid the issue as they don't want to say the wrong thing if there are LGBTQ+ kids in the class. There is an issue with confidence among teachers in tackling these issues.

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Some Members said there were no lessons at all.

Topics mentioned by Members included: consent, healthy relationships, abortion, contraception, LGBTQIA+ issues, reproduction, periods (mostly girls seemed to be taught about this, not the boys even in co-ed schools).

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Members said they would like opportunities to explore the following issues:

- Sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape - what it is, how to know when this is happening, who to contact for help.
- misogyny
- abortion services and clinics
- drug-how to tell if someone is on drugs
- consent
- how to recognise a toxic relationship (platonic or romantic)
- how to know if you are being manipulated
- gaslighting

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

Youth Assembly Members are split on this question roughly 50:50

Some mentioned that different types of families are discussed in HE lessons not in RSE.

Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Members were split on this question but approx 60% said that parents should not have the right to opt their children out of these lessons.

Members are mainly concerned that the child's views must be considered when these decisions are taken.

Parents' and teachers' views are given priority in some schools. They state that children have the right to an education and the right to have their voice heard. Members feel that the scientific facts must be taught to everyone.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Members felt that, from a children's rights perspective, all children should have the right to the same education; that young people need to have more of a say in RSE policies and how RSE is taught; that comprehensive, accurate RSE lessons are in the best interests of the child; and that RSE is important in terms of learning life skills for their adolescence and adult lives.

They worried that missing these lessons would limit a young person's understanding of the world and there could be dangers to children if these things aren't taught i.e. safeguarding issues.

"When parents choose to opt out of these lessons and these issues are not taught at school, then it is unlikely to be taught at home by these same parents."

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Members feel that everyone needs to be educated on consent. It's part of exploring healthy relationships, boundaries and appropriate behaviour. They met with officials from the Executive Office recently to discuss the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and are concerned about increasing sexual violence and incidences of domestic abuse.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

Members felt strongly that their teachers are best placed to teach RSE with some assistance from outside organisations as appropriate.

Quote from a Member: "An outside organisation who knows what they're doing is better than a teacher who doesn't, however ideally teachers will feel empowered, skilled, knowledgeable and interested."

Members feel strongly that RSE must be taught in a factual, non-biased, scientific way which is not influenced by religion or school ethos.

Quote from a Member: "Make sure that RSE is taught in every year in secondary school, ensuring schools can't pick and choose what they teach."

Also see comments on content previously in the survey.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Members feel that there has been a lot of misinformation about RSE particularly in the media since the Secretary of State made changes. This needs to be tackled.

RSE is continually evolving. RSE teachers are usually not specialists. Teachers need access to ongoing training and resources which will give confidence to teachers.

Schools need to timetable LLW and RSE properly. Members stated the importance of the subject but felt that sometimes teachers don't want to teach it. Some Members said that RSE is often taught in the last term of the year, therefore, they don't always get through all the content or in year 12 they are on study leave and miss it altogether.

Members asked about the role of ETI - How do we know if RSE is being taught or taught well?

Above all, Members feel that pupils, parents and teachers all need to be consulted on RSE content and policies and how it is being taught and young people's views need to be given due weight and taken seriously.

Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG8J-2

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-12-19 18:21:36

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Maddison Blair

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

Yes

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

An outside organisation (someone who comes into your school)

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

We received RSE on one occasion and it was not interactive or comprehensive. I think that if outside organisations are being brought in they need to be monitored to ensure that all relevant information is being delivered to students.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

It's important that young people are equipped with the knowledge that they need in order to develop and maintain healthy relationships. It's also essential to protect young people from being in toxic or abusive relationships by providing them with the tools necessary to seek help.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

I learned what about different types of contraception and consent.

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

I would like to learn about issues surrounding relationships and sexuality for LGBTQ+ students, violence against women and girls and the role of social media. Additionally, I think that the curriculum doesn't illustrate what healthy relationships, both romantic and platonic, can look like enough.

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Young people need the information that is taught during RSE and that should not be taken from them. Additionally, young people in abusive households could be kept from receiving RSE to prevent them from realising that what is happening is not acceptable and seeking help.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

No

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

We aren't able to opt out of Maths or English, both teach you life skills, so why should you be able to opt of RSE?

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Consent is an essential thing within any relationships that we have or will form. It is important that the concept of consent is introduced at an early age.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

I think that teachers should be provided with more training in order to teach RSE effectively. RSE should be introduced from primary school, of course focusing on the relationship aspect at first, and there should be no opt out. I think that if the curriculum is changed, young people should be included in designing the new specification. Additionally, I think that RSE should be more interactive and engaging for students.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::



## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG8M-5

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-12-15 09:53:18

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Geraldine Fyfe

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
N/A

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

An outside organisation (someone who comes into your school)

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I wouldn't mind as long as they teach RSE in line with Catholic values and morals.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Trained teachers from outside the school.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

I haven't received very much information on the RSE being taught to my son.

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

No

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

As the parent, I feel I am responsible for their education and I do not want them being taught about things that go against my Catholic faith.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

No

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

If the child is over 16 then they could be consulted as they will be more mature.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Young people need to be aware of what consent actually means.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

No

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

## Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG8Z-J

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-12-05 16:54:02

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Danielle

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Teachers

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

They really don't want to teach it and I can't say I blame them

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Outside organisations

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

We barely get taught sex education

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Don't do drugs or take alcohol  
Consent

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Not that I want to be taught but I think it is important to teach both contraception and anatomy

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

In terms of sex education they respect religiously conservative families because they basically don't teach it but I can't say that they respect same-sex families. I have never been taught about any diverse family types as part of RSE.

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It's silly. All people can have sex and need to be aware of how to protect their health and rights. Just because their parents wish they couldn't doesn't mean they can't. To say the parents will cover this stuff is also nonsensical. If they are not allowing their children access to the basic information in schools I very much doubt they are offering it to them at home.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Of course they should because it relates to their life more than their parent's life. The child is a separate entity from their parents and thus has the right to choose what information they wish to learn. To say they shouldn't choose is to treat a child as a second class citizen with less rights than adults.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Obviously it's important. Most students are largely unaware of the boundaries of consent. The majority of people still believe it has to be a violent situation to count as non-consensual. Not to mention that in order to reduce violence you need to start with educating young boys.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

RSE should be delivered by outside organisations (purely because of teacher reluctance to actually be open with children), it should be taught from as early as possible but first year is certainly an appropriate time to start talking about more serious topics. As far as I am aware RSE is not being taught in Northern Ireland to an acceptable standard. In my case it was not taught at all but I believe that is improving for the younger pupils in my school. Most people I know still believe in misconceptions whether than be from online or quite simply were never taught important facts by their family, and schools need to cover the difference for lazy parents who would prefer to pretend that their children are innocent and younger than they are. The reality is that if parents and schools do not teach RSE then you get a situation where children are teaching it eachother and that is a disastrous approach.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG36-9

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-27 13:09:56

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Harrison Kerr

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
NI Youth Assembly

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

There has been no mention of a school RSE policy at my school. When asked, staff haven't confirmed the existence of one. I also looked at my school's website, where all the other policies can be found, to no avail.

There has been limited opportunities in general for students to engage with teachers on the development of any new policies. The Student Council can bring forward pupils' views but usually little further action is taken.

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I've actually quite liked some of the outside organisations that have come in to do the workshop, for example Love for Life. They've been informative, delivered the information in a clear and concise way, and allowed plenty of opportunities for pupil engagement.

However - these events are few and far between, and the delivery of RSE through the LLW curriculum at school has been lacklustre at best. Teachers struggle to hold the attention of their students as many find LLW a useless subject, and some give up on delivering the curriculum quickly.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

I would say not - during the few RSE lessons we've had that the teachers have actually tried to teach something, generally we would just read a bit out of a textbook or a booklet and do an activity - there is little actual "teaching" going on.

As I said before, many teachers view RSE (and LLW in general) as a useless subject and prefer to allow students to use it as a revision or free period. I think that more resources should be available to support teachers in the delivery of RSE to increase teacher and pupil engagement.

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

I would say that a mix of outside organisations and teachers would be appropriate - charities like Love for Life can provide a highly effective lesson on the more difficult to teach or sensitive topics, but teachers should deliver the majority of the curriculum.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

In its current state, no. I believe that RSE lessons are found to be a waste of time. I don't know whether this is a problem with the delivery of RSE in my school specifically or whether the curriculum itself is vague and not updated, but in a nutshell - the few things I have learned from my teachers haven't been that useful apart from the workshops delivered by outside organisations.

Honestly, I believe that some parts of the RSE curriculum are a bit childish for secondary school students. By this point in our lives, we've already learned how to make friends etc - it's not that hard, we don't need a textbook to tell us how to do it! I would place further emphasis on the more important parts of RSE such as signs of an abusive relationship, sexual health education, etc.

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

RSE delivered in LLW classes

- Lessons on forming and maintaining relationships
- How we view ourselves (growth/fixed mindset etc)
- Lightly touched on sexual & reproductive health

RSE delivered by outside organisations

- In-depth explanation of causes and risks of teenage pregnancy
- Precautions to take before having sex (ie protection)
- Alcohol awareness workshop
- Sexting workshop
- Consent education

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

More information about puberty, sexuality & gender identity. These topics haven't been covered yet, they're a bit of a taboo to be honest for both students and teachers.

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

Not much to say honestly, but I think they skirt around sensitive subjects a little and prefer to let outside organisations take the burden. We haven't really covered any controversial topics.

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Regardless of their parents' opinions, young people will inevitably experience puberty and the associated challenges. If certain aspects of RSE are not presented impartially and comprehensively (focusing on the science rather than religious beliefs), children may grow up lacking crucial information about their bodies.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It should be their decision. It's their body, their life choices, and if they grow up unaware of important aspects of RSE then it could have a huge impact on their future.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

In my school consent education was delivered brilliantly by an outside organisation. It was very informative and engaging.

By emphasising the importance of consent, children will know from the start that they are in charge of their body and someone forcing themselves on them is not okay. It also will help to discourage bad habits and possibly even prevent them from getting trapped in an abusive relationship in the future.

It's important to teach this at secondary-school age - at university, for example, many students will have their first experiences of alcohol and parties. By reinforcing that you don't have the freedom of capacity to consent if under the influence, pupils will hopefully be able to recognise situations like this in the future.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

Outside organisations should partner with CCEA to overhaul the RSE curriculum in Northern Ireland. The current curriculum feels outdated and doesn't always address the real issues young people face. These organisations could provide reliable, tried-and-tested resources that teachers can use straight away, without extra prep time.

RSE should also get more attention during staff training days. Just because it isn't an academic subject doesn't mean it's unimportant! Topics like relationships, consent, and wellbeing are essential, and treating them seriously would make teachers feel more equipped to deliver RSE in a meaningful way.

Plus, the curriculum itself needs a clearer structure so it's consistent across schools. Right now, it feels like some topics are skipped or not covered properly depending on the school. Adding guidelines on when and how often RSE lessons should happen would help everyone stay on the same page.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Another thing is involving students more in the curriculum design. Getting input from mature young people would make sure RSE focuses on what's actually relevant to us and addresses our real concerns. It would be more effective if the curriculum felt like it was designed with students in mind rather than just ticking boxes.

## Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG39-C

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-25 15:46:51

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Ross MacAskill

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

### Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

### Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

The child may never be taught about this information in their life

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

The child should have a choice if they want to be removed. The adults shouldn't choose for them

### Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Consent is always important

### Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

Include more about wider family types

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

### Signposting

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Gillian Mangan

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Parent

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

Yes

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

Yes, quite literally this week my son's grammar school consulted parents on new rse policy

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I think if that makes things easier for teachers and students then it is a good thing. I would not personally like it if it was a religious group providing the teaching. An experienced and qualified group who's aim is supporting kids through difficult topics in a non judgemental way would be welcomed.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Prefer not to say

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

I don't know the teachers who are providing this in my children's post primary schools so cannot comment

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

External organisations unless there is adequate and appropriate training for teachers and inspection to ensure their approach.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Nada! Catholic girls school, everything was shameful, just don't be anything other than heterosexual in a traditional relationship.

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Is this questionnaire aimed at students? I may have come to the wrong party!

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Prefer not to say

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Some families may have religious or cultural reasons to wish their children be offered less/different information

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Prefer not to say

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

I'm unsure on this one

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Prefer not to say

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Prefer not to say

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

## Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG79-G

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-15 14:03:41

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Georgia Watson

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Northern Ireland Youth Assembly

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

Yes

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

In school, we had form time. In form time, we would look at topics that connected to RSE and other topics like bullying, studying, and grief. Although these topics had been set by the school board and power points had been made out for lessons, the teaching of these topics was never something that was taken seriously by teachers or pupils. In younger years, we were given a booklet and asked to fill in activities in the book to do with that week's topic. These worked to a degree, but were often not entirely completed. In older years, there were no booklets, and teachers settled with showing a video or 2 which was promptly forgotten. If there was no video, we would usually be asked to discuss the topic, with an underlying tone of "but only if you feel like it". Generally speaking, these periods for RSE were spent either revising for simply just chatting, nothing to do with the actual topic.

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Teachers

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

On the rare occasions people come in, there are usually pretty good, but there are far fewer than there should be. Now and again, the school does get people to come in who aren't great at teaching these topics to people, and there have been instances where organisations have spread their radical views on children far too young to think about those topics for themselves

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

Every "RSE" lesson included an undertone of teachers not really knowing anything about what they were teaching. They were not at all trained on how to teach the topics, or even what they were about. They relied on reading the power points and asking the pupils what was going on.

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Probably teachers or organisations, or perhaps it should be done in assembly. However the teachers/ assembly speakers should be better trained and more professional and actually care about what they are telling us. We should do fun activities that help us remember the topics, and everything discussed should be kept age appropriate.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

I think they would, if they were done correctly.

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

We have covered:

Drugs

Alcohol

Smoking

Bullying

Sexuality

Mental health/ mental health disorders

Studying

Grief and bereavement

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

I think just improving how we are taught the topics is best

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

They don't really talk about it

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

I suppose there are some topics that parents may want to be able to teach children themselves, or perhaps the children may feel uncomfortable attending the classes.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

The parents may just be overly strict and might be stopping the child from learning about things they ought to know. It should really be a collective decision

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It's very important to learn about this so as young teenagers know what to expect and what to do when going into their first relationships.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

I simply think there is not enough emphasis put on the teaching of these topics. In my school, the teachers are untrained to teach it, and they do not care whether we learn it or not. The lessons are basically a free period as we don't do anything of great importance

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

No, I've said everything

## Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG81-9

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-12-15 09:22:29

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

2 What is your email address?

Email:

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

Yes

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

Awful. Nexus came in and used age inappropriate material. We were only in Form One and they were telling us about sexual consent and violent relationships. They talked about suicide too. It upset some of us.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Too much time is spent on it. Most of us just want to learn our subjects. A lot of us are sick of being lectured about sending nudes etc just because some silly people make bad decisions.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

Our parents teach us what not to do / how to behave responsibly and then we get it all over again at school. It's a waste of time.

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Consent

Internet safety

Healthy relationships

Friendship

Who to talk to when needing help

Period dignity

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

No. I just want not to be taken out of classes for talks. We already get a period of LLW every week.

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

Most schools and families teach us to be kind to everyone. We are sick of the labelling of groups. Just be decent should cover it.

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Parents know and love their kids best. Many don't agree with the messages being promoted in RSE lessons. Eg not everyone would encourage relationships outside marriage. Not all families support abortion. These external organisations are often unprofessional and so parents should be so allowed to decide.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

My own parents talk everything through with us. I actually asked them to be excluded and we all discussed the content. They're not trying to keep us in the dark about these issues. For example, I had a lady from Nexus tell me that she'd had several abusive relationships. I was 11. I went home and said: 'She's hardly best placed to teach us about making wise choices.' My sister was shown a video about men coming to a girl's house to sleep with her. It ended up with a knife at her throat. These organisations are terrifying us. Most relationships are actually healthy.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

No

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

We're all sick of it. The cup of tea video made us all really uncomfortable. They teach us about sex in biology (just the facts) and then suddenly Form 1 pupils are told everyone is having sex - it's unrealistic and sends a bad message. Most are just playing football at this age.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

Reduce the amount and leave it to teachers. Outside organisations are generally of a poor quality.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

RSE lessons suggest everyone is mixed up and making bad choices. Most of us have a brain and have been given good advice by our parents.

Signposting

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
DAVID CLEMENTS

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Methodist Church - Council on Social Responsibility

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

This is fine, so long as the material used is broadly in keeping with the general Christian ethos of the school and that parents are aware of what is being taught.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

Not every teacher will be comfortable and confident, but there should be enough teachers in any school to deliver the material in a sensitive, accurate and age-appropriate way.

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Teachers with pastoral responsibilities should be the primary resource, though resources outside the school may be useful, though always with oversight from the responsible teachers.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

If there is a good trusting relationship with the school this would hopefully be a rare occurrence, but to remove this right from parents shifts the balance of responsibility in the wrong direction.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

The parents and the school share this important responsibility, but the the child's voice should always be heard as well.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Proper understanding of what consent means is vital - increasingly so with the culture in which young people are growing up these days.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

No

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Accurate, factual, age-appropriate information is very important and the moral framework in which it is delivered is equally important.

## Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NG86-E

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-12-16 11:48:30

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

2 What is your email address?

Email:

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I don't mind them, as they provide more informative and memorable information than teachers. However, their visits are very sparse and should really be on a regular basis e.g once a month

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

They feel uncomfortable and often skip past important details, assuming that we know them already. They talk carefully, and tip toe around sensitive subjects, as they don't want to offend anyone

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

I personally think that it should be an outside person, although teachers should have training on the subjects in case someone feels more comfortable asking them questions afterwards. This should be given to both male and female teachers.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

Sometimes they do, but only when they are from an outside organisation. For example, people came in to talk to us about contraception and it was very interesting and enjoyable. I have however, unfortunately never learnt anything of significant importance from my teacher.

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

We learnt about contraception, consent and periods, but almost nothing else

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Subjects such as what to do when in a situation with a rapist, how to look after your body and keep yourself safe from STIs would be very helpful

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

Its not that they don't respect the different types of families, it's just that they barely mention them at all. I don't remember ever learning about different families other than in RS very briefly. Even if it was taught, it wasn't made memorable enough and was likely gone through quickly.

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

I think it depends on the age. I think parents should be able to opt their children out, but they should have a good reason and should have to them teach their children these subjects for themselves, as they are very important to learn. I understand that some children may not be mature enough to learn about RSE, but they probably shouldn't be allowed to opt out at year 10 or above as they should really learn by this point unless there is a good reason.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

They're the ones that are going to have to learn the topics, and unless there is a good enough reason from the parents that the child's opinion shouldn't be considered, then they should be consulted also.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It's a very important topic to learn about, as it helps young people to make decisions about their body and know what is right or wrong for someone else to do.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

RSE should be delivered by either teachers with adequate training who are able to make lessons engaging and memorable, who do not feel uncomfortable talking about the topics; or by outside, specialist organisations who are confident on the material. It should be taught probably once a week and people should get to play games and given treats to keep them engaged with the important information.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

No I think that's all.

(Side note: it is against ethical guidelines of questionnaires to ask for people to provide their name, as participants identifies should be kept private.)

Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZ4-E

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-02 08:25:27

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Daniel David McGucken

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

Yes

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Teachers

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Teacher

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Consent  
Spotting abuse

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

### Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

### Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Everyone should know

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It is their choice the parents are not the ones attending the subject

### Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

### Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

No

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

### Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZA-U

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-09-28 17:17:52

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Matthew Moore

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Pupil

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

When an outside organisation comes into my schools, I don't feel that the message gets through to the pupils, as the talks often interrupt PE or games. This leads to the pupils feeling annoyed and far less likely to listen or to partake in the talk.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Prefer not to say

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

I believe that it depends on what the teachers, as it feels that some teachers are more familiar with it than others

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

I feel that it should be taught by the teachers as there is a level of trust between the pupils and teachers

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Prefer not to say

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

I believe it depends which part of RSE that is being taught

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

In school we have been taught about: consent, internet safety, social media, stranger danger and domestic and sexual violence and abuse. The rest we either haven't been taught or we haven't been taught enough to realise we were taught it. Though when it came to the talk of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, it definitely felt that no one wanted to be there.

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

I would like to learn more about the rights of the child that is laid out in the UN convention on rights of a child

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Prefer not to say

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

I believe it does but I wouldn't really be sure

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

I believe that it depends on the age of the child and how developed their brain is

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Yes as I believe that if a child does not want to attend these lessons they should have the right to pull out if they so choose

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It is important for students to be aware of their rights and not be taken advantage of

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

I believe that teachers need to be better trained, however I do also believe that teachers do need to be the ones teaching RSE as a student will trust them more. I also that students should be asked if they don't want to attend a lesson as I believe if a child doesn't want to go to an RSE lesson that they aren't comfortable attending then should have the right to not attend it

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

I believe that more needs to be done to insure that children's voice is heard in RSE lessons and that their opinion is respected whatever it may be

Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZB-V

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-09-30 19:47:58

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

June

2 What is your email address?

Email:

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

N/A

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

We practically aren't taught it

And even the small bit we are is incredibly inadequate, it's simply ineffective for those of us who don't apply to heteronormative practices, and furthermore it's simply outdated in schools.

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Teachers

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

A mix of outside of school and in school, though I think out of school would be most effective in smaller classes rather than assembly/group activities

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

If I'm honest nothing. Outside of school through other projects I have learnt a lot more and become far more comfortable with RSE as it isn't blatant pandering toward heteronormative society and has a modern outlook towards our generation. Especially how religion is branded on to it with absolutely no regard for opposing beliefs

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Trans, gay, lesbian sexual health and other options to contraception, i.e, options for abortion or health checks things of that nature.

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Whilst i strongly believe these topics to be vitally important, i can still reason with parents who may be concerned their child is perhaps too young or who has faced violence of that nature and doesnt want to cause any traumatic issues due to it

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

No

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Young people may simply not have a full grasp of the topic and may not be able to take it on board wholly and treat it as a joke

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It is the basis of the whole concept and being able to explain how vital it is, is something that simply must be covered

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

Covering things out side of hetero sexuality in terms if safety and care as well as abortion, its availability on top of other necessary screenings, for things such as sti/stds

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Homophobia is rampant.

In schools especially.

Anything we can do to help lgbtqia students must be done as hate grows in our country, it creates a country of hate, fear, segregation and bigotry.

Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZD-X

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-09-27 18:03:24

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Alexandra

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

It's more official when done by an outside organisations as it has a greater sense of legitimacy. There is also less awkwardness if you have any questions as you most likely never have to see the person delivering the talk again.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Outside organisation

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

Sexual assault  
Domestic abuse

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Morning after pills

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It's not their body, not their choice. It's better to be well informed than to be ignorant

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

As it's their lessons not their parents.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Many people in this generation are not aware of what consent is and don't respect the opposite sex

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

Like a normal class, with PowerPoint presentations. It should be ran every two weeks for one term. The curriculum should be inclusive and not so heavily focused on heterosexual relations.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

## Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZG-1

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-09-27 18:12:47

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

Joshua

2 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

NI youth assembly

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I think that it is useful, as it is quite literally their job, and they know best

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

An outside organisation, as mentioned previously, due to their experience

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

In school, we have learnt about relationships, as well as basic biology about the reproductive system

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Not really

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

As it is important for people our age to know about themselves and to make wiser decisions with what they are taught in RSE

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

At the end of the day, it is their choice to make on what they want to do

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It is important to be able to know how to act/react in certain situations

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

No

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

## Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZH-2

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-02 05:23:43

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Clodagh McKenna

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Youth assembly

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

Yes

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I think it's good to get taught by people who are more aware about these type of issues.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Prefer not to say

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

The organisations as the children will listen to them more rather than a teacher or principal

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

No

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

It is a topic that I think is essential for all young people to learn about

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Maybe they have have classes like this before or understand the topic well enough that they might feel they don't need it

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

As it teaches young people that consent is necessary

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

As we only get these talks in my school every 2-3 years so I feel like once a year would be more beneficial as many children will forget

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

## Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZJ-4

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-01 13:29:46

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Eslam Abuelhana

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
pupil

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Mix of both

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I believe some of it is helpful but the school should be more diverse in it's selection of talks.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Professionals

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

No

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

### Consent and studying

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

How to get a job, how to do taxes, how to manage money,

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

Yes

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

parents should have to choice to opt out their children

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Children should have a voice.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Because it's important

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

No

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

## Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZT-E

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-10-02 13:53:29

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Laura McEllone

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
n/a

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

Yes

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

my son's school principal sent our RSE policy out for parent input about a year ago.

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Unsure

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

We don't know, because it doesn't explicitly state in the policy - only that they "may".. from what i've seen, sometimes parents aren't even told about outside organisations, and they certainly aren't vetted.

One of my MAJOR concerns about outside organisations providing RSE lessons is their religious affiliations and thus the messaging that is conveyed. For example: Love for Life.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

I doubt it, because of the amount of misinformation and polarity of opinion. They'd likely be afraid of offending or saying the wrong thing... Or worse, they let their own views cloud proper scientific education.

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

Teachers, or an EA/parent approved organisation that follows a set curriculum, with clear messaging, and fully transparent lesson plans.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

They are essential - it is absolutely criminal not to provide children with the proper education to live full and healthy, safe lives. Northern Ireland has been called out specifically as failing its children as a result of the lack of proper and educational RSE content.

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

I was educated in New Zealand, whose state schools are secular. I received age appropriate education from late primary school in relation to puberty, periods, etc. Then in secondary school we received proper sex education, inclusive of contraception, healthy relationships, where to get help if you need it, as well as identifying problem behaviour or abuse and teaching us how to keep ourselves safe.

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

There should be far greater importance placed on educating children together - regardless of gender - for all parts of RSE. Boys and Men should not be ignorant of female bodies, and should have a full understanding of the menstruation cycle etc.

We should also be far more in depth about enthusiastic consent, how to keep yourself safe online, and much more education on healthy relationship and communication behaviours.

I'd also like to see a lot more done about self esteem, and the harmful effects of social media on mental health, and practical strategies for young people to put in place.

I would also like to see far greater education on LGBTQ+ people, issues they've faced, and how to be an ally.

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

No

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

Not in the least. Our school refuses to acknowledge anything outside of the Christian married man and woman.

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

No, because children have a protected human right to education (UNCRC <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>) about their bodies, their health and their lives. Parents can of course decide what is best for them in their own homes, but education should not be wielded as a weapon. Not educating your child about their body and their world is akin to child abuse in my eyes.

If a family (for example) didn't agree with access to abortion care, the child should still be able to learn about it, what it entails, why it exists, and they can make their choice as to whether they feel that's something they believe in themselves.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

No

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Because all children have a right to a full, unbiased, scientifically accurate education about their bodies and health. They can't make informed decisions on what they should learn if they haven't learned it, or perhaps not yet been in a position where they would have benefitted from that knowledge.

E.g. if a girl opts out of RSE because she feels pressure from her religious family to not learn about abortion healthcare.. but then later in her teens is a victim of rape resulting in unwanted pregnancy, she should have all the education and knowledge to make an informed decision on her own body and the course of her life, rather than feel compelled into a potentially detrimental or harmful (mental or physical) situation purely through ignorance.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

No

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Consent is fundamental to healthy emotional and physical relationships and should start from children are born. No one should be forced to accept unwanted physical touch. Consent as a concept builds over the years a child matures - e.g. as a toddler, if you're being tickled and say stop - the person stops. That toddler then grows into a teenager entering a physical relationship with someone, and the other person says stop - they understand that they must stop.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

Given the limit of 1000 characters, it will be hard for me to detail everything here.

RSE should be delivered by teachers, from an a set, multi agency approved curriculum, with set lessons/topics and be fully transparent with parents. It should also be inspected, and evaluated. RSE education should be woven through every single year of education from P1 to the last year of secondary school.

The age appropriate curriculum should cover at various ages (but not be limited to):

- Correct anatomical terms for your body
- Puberty
- Healthy emotional relationships, friends and romantic
- Sex education, including contraception and emergency contraception, as well as abortion
- Menstruation education for everyone
- Online safety
- Recognising harmful behaviours
- Help and resources/agencies that provide care
- LGBTQ+ education
- Anti-bias/anti-racism
- Human rights
- Combating gender stereotypes
- Equality
- Inclusion and respect

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

<https://healtheducationresources.unesco.org/library/documents/good-practice-guide-teaching-relationships-and-sexuality-education-rse>

<https://ceea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ceea-asset/Curriculum/Relationships and Sexuality Education Guidance An Update for Primary Schools.pdf>

Signposting

## Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZW-H

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-09-28 09:37:27

### Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Taisija Sestakova

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

### Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

Yes

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

We have completed online surveys after doing an RSE course, but that was the height of it.

### Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

Teachers

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

I feel like they would be more prepared to do this than a lot of the teachers. And pupils would feel more comfortable with asking questions since they won't see this person later on.

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

No

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

A lot of teachers are simply pulled in since they are a "younger teacher", but quite a few have almost openly said they don't want to be here either.

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

STDs, LGBTQIA+, Relationships, Consent, Abortion

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Schools should talk more about rape, teenage pregnancy, and other topics that could happen to anyone and how to deal with them, instead of making it a taboo topic.

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

A lot of the "example" stories in the booklet make sure to be gender neutral.

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

I feel like it should be the choice of the child whether or not they can opt out.

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

As said above.

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

Yes

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Yes, some children may not be talked about it at home, or even worse taught wrong. It's important they have a safe space to get legit information.

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

Yes

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

It should be done other the course of the year, not just crammed into one full day in school. It should also be done by trained, willing professionals, and it should be the child's choice whether or not they want to do it, not the parents.

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here::

Signposting

# Response ID ANON-8P2Q-NGZZ-M

Submitted to Mini-Inquiry into Relationship and Sexuality Education – Children and Young People  
Submitted on 2024-09-27 18:44:26

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Christine Farry

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
[REDACTED]

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

## Relationship and Sexuality (RSE) Policies

4 Have you ever been asked your opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school?

No

opinion on your school's RSE policy/ how RSE is taught in your school:

## Resources and Support for Relationship and Sexuality Education

5 Which of the following delivers Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in your school?

An outside organisation (someone who comes into your school)

6 If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?

If an outside organisation is used in your school, what do you think about this?:

It's ok but it is quite scarcely used in school and I feel that some schools are getting for education on these issues

7 Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?

Yes

Do you feel that teachers are confident when delivering RSE lessons?:

8 Who do you think should teach RSE in schools?

Who do you think should teach RSE in schools? :

People who are comfortable talking about it but it should be a constant thing in schools not just we did that once and that's it.

9 Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?

Yes

Do you feel that RSE lessons provide you with life-skills required for teenagers/young adults?:

10 Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?

Can you provide an outline of what you have learned about in RSE at school?:

We've Learnt about puberty, teenage pregnancy and stis but that is about it

11 Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?

Is there anything that you would like to learn about that you have never been taught?:

Anything that could be relevant in later life to keep us safe and not come into harm

## Diversity and Inclusion

12 Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?

Yes

Do you feel that your school teaches RSE in a way that respects the different types of families and people that live in Northern Ireland?:

## Opt-out

13 Do you believe that parents should be able to opt out of their children being taught RSE in schools?

No

14 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

You learn important life skills that keep you safe. These may be uncomfortable but it is still important to learn about them

15 Do you believe that a child should be consulted on whether they wish to be removed from certain RSE classes, regardless of their age?

Yes

16 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

If someone is particularly uncomfortable because it triggers something then they should be consulted

## Consent

17 Does your school include education on consent in its RSE lessons?

No

18 Do you believe consent education is an important element of RSE?

Yes

19 Why do you say that?

Why do you say that?:

Everyone should know the dangers and importance of consent

## Making Changes

20 Do you think there is a need for changes to RSE in Northern Ireland?

No

21 If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.

If yes, please share your ideas with us. You might wish to comment on how RSE should be delivered and by whom and for how long, the content of the RSE curriculum or any other suggestions you might have.:

22 Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here:

Finally, if you have any other general comments about RSE please include them here.:

## Signposting