

Sex education in UK schools
and how parents can protect their children

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- Usually known as sex and relationships education SRE
- Taught as part of PHSE, personal, health and social education
- PHSE and SRE are not compulsory subjects
- Not part of the national curriculum
- Human reproduction is covered in biology at secondary school
- No requirement for primary school children to be taught about sex in science lessons

- Schools can choose whether to teach sex education as part of PHSE
- Parents can choose to withdraw their children from SRE in both primary and secondary school

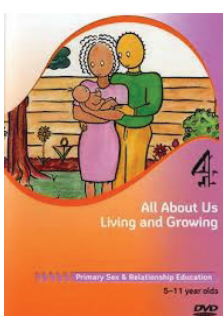
- **Government guidelines state:**
 - “consultation with parents”
 - “develop policies which reflect the parents’ wishes”
 - “Governors and head teachers should discuss [resources] with parents”
- “Sensitive issues should be covered ...in consultation with parents”
- “Partnership between school and parents is the key to success.”

- **In many schools:**
- Parents are excluded
- Graphic materials are used
- Increasing emphasis on same sex relationships
- Children are traumatised



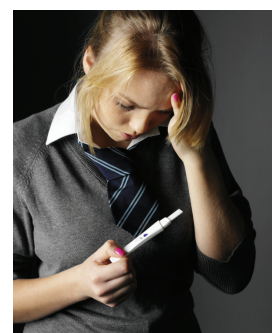
- **Primary school**
 - Naming sexual body parts
 - Animations of sexual intercourse
 - Masturbation, contraception – normalising sex
- **Secondary school**
 - Contraception – where to get it, how to use it
 - Confidential clinics on school premises
 - Access to sexual “health” services

“Living and Growing”



- Makes young children aware of their sexual organs
- Introduces them to sexual intercourse
- Normalises sex for children

- UK government spent £millions on making contraception available to young people
- Did not lower teenage pregnancy rate
- Teen pregnancies are falling now, when contraception programmes for teenagers have been cut



No evidence that school sex education reduces teenage pregnancies

Most common reasons given by schools for delivering sex education:

1. Every child is entitled to high quality sex education
2. We have to teach children about sex in school because some parents won't do it

Safe at School approach:

Parents are the primary educators of their children in sexual matters

Parents are natural sex educators for their own children

Parents are the experts on their own children

• Practical steps for parents:

- Find out **whether** SRE is taught in your child's school
- Find out **when** it is taught
- Ask to see **all** the resources which will be used
- Ask the school about the protocol for withdrawing your child
- Ask what provision the school will make for your child if withdrawn from SRE