



## Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) statutory guidance and code

### Consultation response form

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### Introduction to the Wales Safer Communities Network

The Wales Safer Communities Network was established in January 2021 following the recommendations of the Welsh Government's Working Together for Safer Communities Review. The Network aims to become the strategic voice for community safety in Wales, working collaboratively to champion and support community safety partnership working, and influence the shaping and development of national policy and local practice.

Responses should be returned by **16 July 2021** to:

Curriculum and Assessment Division  
The Education Directorate  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:

e-mail: [curriculumforwales@gov.wales](mailto:curriculumforwales@gov.wales)

**Respondent type** (please select one from the following)

Child or young person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employer/business representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent/carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional body/interest group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools governor or member of school management committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Voluntary sector (community group, volunteer, self-help group, social or co-operative enterprise, religious, not for profit organisation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mainstream school practitioner (head, teacher, teaching assistant, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>
EOTAS provider (PRU staff, independent school staff, other provider, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
Higher education (including universities/academic institutions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Further education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Politician (Senedd member, county councillors, MP, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other respondent group not listed above, please specify: <b>Wales Safer Communities Network</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lobbyist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Question 1 – Do you agree that the explanation of the definition of RSE is clear?**

<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please explain your answer:**

The information included is clear. However, there is a lack of attention on healthy relationships and consent within the definition.

**Question 2 – Do you agree that the principles for embedding RSE are clear?**

<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please explain your answer:**

Whilst knowledge about Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is included, there is no emphasis on identifying the early warning signs and what to do that would be preventative. Lack of emphasis on consent, healthy relationships, hate crime or street harassment of women and girls and how to safely challenge it.

**Question 3 – Do you agree that the structure and content of the guidance clear?**

<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please explain your answer:**

There needs to be a greater focus on healthy relationships (including coercion and intimidation). The risks of grooming for the prevention of both sexual and criminal exploitation, as grooming involves relationships.

**Question 4 – We propose that the content set out in the three broad stages of the guidance will become mandatory as part of the RSE code. Do you agree that they encompass what is important about RSE for all learners' ages and developmental stages?**

<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please explain your answer:**

Whilst agree though the first should be on healthy relationships and not just relationships. There is no mention around consent, harassment, hate crimes or breaking the cycles to prevent violence or modern slavery and exploitation.

**Question 5 – Do you agree that the RSE code section of the guidance is clear and appropriate?**

<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please explain your answer:**

No Comments

**Question 6 – Do you agree that the mandatory elements of the guidance (the RSE code) are the right ones? Is anything missing that should be included?**

<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please explain your answer:**

The unhealthy activity of grooming needs to be covered as it can lead to sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation including involvement in county lines and as money mules.  
There is also no mention of Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage other than in the glossary, both of which may be carried out on those the curriculum is meant to reach, knowing how to get help is therefore essential.

**Question 7 – Do you agree that the guidance offers relevant information to support practitioners when designing their school curriculum for RSE?**

<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Please explain your answer:**

There are some key areas missing from within the guidance and also from the glossary. No information about grooming, coercive control, harassment including hate crimes. Inclusion of these could lead to the prevention of future unhealthy relationships and improved community cohesion where people feel safer in their communities and at home.

**Question 8 – We would like to know your views on the effects that the RSE draft statutory guidance would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:**

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh
- ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

**Supporting comments**

No comments

**Question 9 – Please also explain how you believe the proposed RSE draft statutory guidance could be formulated or changed so as to have:**

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language
- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on



treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

**Supporting comments**

No comments

**Question 10 – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.**

**Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:**