

Summary Document



CPD: What is Relationship, Sex and Health Education in Catholic schools?
A guide for parents

Date: Thursday 3 February 2022

Video Content

Links to video content shown as part of the presentation:

Video 1: [Summary of the Statutory RSE Guidance](#) (Bonus content)

Video 2: [Parent VoxPop 1](#)

Video 3: [What the Government Says and What the Church Says About Engaging Parents](#)

Video 4: [Ten Ten's 10 Principles for Catholic RSHE](#)

Video 5: [Primary Life to the Full Introduction](#)

Video 6: [Secondary Life to the Full Introduction](#)

Video 7: [Parent VoxPop 2](#) (Bonus content)

In light of the new statutory requirements for RSHE and the Catholic Education Service's Model Curriculum for RSE, Ten Ten Resources created the **Life to the Full** primary and secondary programmes.

Life to the Full is a fully-resourced Scheme of Work in Relationship, Sex and Health Education which meets the new statutory guidelines. The programme is fully in line with both the DFE guidance and what is expected within the context of a Catholic school as it is based on the Model Catholic RSE curriculum.

The structure for both the primary and secondary **Life to the Full** programme follows the CES Model Curriculum which gives three main themes, each with sub-themes and further curriculum guidance.

1. Created and Loved by God covers

- Me, my body, my health
- Emotional well-being
- Life cycles

2. Created to Love Others covers

- Personal Relationships
- Keeping Safe

3. Created to Live in Community covers

- Living in the Wider World

What the Church says about Engaging Parents

The Catechism of the Catholic Church perfectly sums up the core principle that the Church gives us with regard to engaging parents when teaching their children about RSHE:

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.”
[CCC 2223]

The Catholic Church believes that God has given each family its own specific and unique mission, and that the role of the school is to complement the educational responsibilities that have been bestowed upon parents.

Parents are the first educators of their children. It is their right and responsibility to inform and educate their children in matters relating to human growth and development, particularly sexual development. Therefore, schools should always seek to work in partnership with parents and carers. The teaching offered by schools should complement and not replace their primary role. In doing so, we are fulfilling the mission of the Church and enacting the Home-Parish-School triangle: supporting the Church in its duty to educate on these matters, and assisting parents in their duties.

What the Government says about Engaging Parents

There are distinct differences between primary and secondary schools and the curriculum they are required to cover. In primary schools, the subject is entitled ‘Relationship and Health Education’. There is no compulsory mention of the word ‘sex’ in the subject for primary schools. This means that ‘sex education’ is an optional subject. In secondary schools, the subject is entitled ‘Relationship, Sex and Health Education’. Here, ‘sex education’ is a compulsory element of the statutory curriculum.

If a parent requests that their child is withdrawn from Relationships Education or Health Education in primary schools, the DFE recommends that the Headteacher opens up a dialogue with the parent to explain the statutory nature of the curriculum and what it does and doesn’t include.

If a parent requests the right to withdraw from 'sex education' in secondary schools, the DFE recommends opening up a dialogue with both the parent and the child to outline the benefits of the teaching.

Resources from Ten Ten that schools can use to consult with parents before starting the programme

Built into the **Life to the Full** programme are some simple ways to help schools work with parents.

The Parent Consultation Tool is aimed at giving you, as parents, an overview of **Life to the Full**. The 5 points this will articulate are:

- **Vision:** The first unit will help parents understand the vision and purpose of the '**Life to the Full**' programme.
- **Overview:** Parents then see an overview of the structure and broad content of the programme from **Early Years to Year 6**, or in the secondary resource, from **Year 7 to Year 11**.
- **First Educators:** Next, parents explore the 'first educator' role of parents, and the ways in which this programme supports that role through the Online Parent Portal.
- **Key Decisions:** The next part looks at Key Decisions that your school must make about programme content in consultation with parents, this part is just for primary schools
- **FAQs:** The FAQs section shares answers to lots of the questions which parents may have about the programme.

(For primary schools there is also a 30 minute **Parent Session** option. This is the same content as the Parent Consultation Tool, but gives schools the option of sharing the information with parents in person or via an online meeting).

There is a **consultation questionnaire** that your child's school may have adapted specifically for their programme of work. One thing to note is that it is up to individual schools to decide how they want to disseminate a questionnaire. Some schools use online tools like Google Forms or Survey Monkey. Some schools have asked parents to fill in a paper questionnaire as part of a parents evening.

Key decisions that primary schools must make in consultation with parents

We have aimed to pitch the resources at an age-appropriate level for children and young people within each learning stage. However, the final decision on when sessions should be taught is ultimately the responsibility of the school. At times, the school may feel that children should be a little older for some sessions; at other times, they might feel that certain topics should be introduced sooner.

At primary level, there are four key decisions that we ask schools to consider and discuss with parents before implementing the programme.

Key Decision #1: Genitalia

The lessons are available with and without reference to genitalia, but we encourage schools to use the 'with genitalia' version, from both a safeguarding view point as well as normalising and giving due dignity to body parts.

Key Decision #2: Puberty

In Lower Key Stage One, we have provided two sessions on puberty and changing bodies. With parents, schools will need to decide when is the right time to share these lessons.

Key Decision #3: Talking About Sex

The third key area for consideration is about whether to include a session in Upper Key Stage Two which answers the question: **'Where do babies come from?'**

Teaching about sexual intercourse to primary school children is not part of the statutory curriculum; however, a number of dioceses that we have partnered with have asked that resources are provided which deal with this topic as it is a natural progression of the conversation around the scientific understanding of how babies are made.

Key Decision #4: Talking About Pornography

The final key decision concerns talking about pornography. Discussion can be rooted in the debate about whether covering this topic is non-statutory Sex Education or whether it falls into the statutory category of Internet Safety.

Maintaining engagement and offering support throughout the years

Ten Ten Online Parent Portal

The Ten Ten Online Parent Portal can be used to share:

- Ongoing Information about the programme children will be following
- Including lesson objectives and snapshots of the lesson content
- Prayers for home
- Suggestions for further activity at home

Each school has a separate username and password to distribute to parents. Your child's school might also plan into their homework strategy some activities from **Life to the Full** that could be completed by your child with you as homework.

Glossary of Terms

For primary schools, there is also a Glossary of Terms documents for each Key Stage. We recommend that this could be something schools share with parents to make you aware of any new vocabulary that your child will be learning.

Additional CPD Opportunities

While there are no more webinars planned for parents for this academic year, we are planning some opportunities for the 2022-2023 academic year, you can keep updated about upcoming **Ten Ten CPD Courses** by clicking [here](#).

The Teacher's Hub

Ten Ten's **Teacher's Hub** is a series of short articles on topics linked to RHE, RSHE and Collective Worship. Although the articles are aimed at teachers, they are accessible to anybody and could be of interest to parents and carers too. To explore **The Hub** articles click [here](#).

Further Questions

If you have any questions following the **RSHE: Parents** CPD session on 3rd February please email contact@tntenresources.co.uk