

Curriculum and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education

36. PSHE can help to reduce incidents of harassment and violence by equipping pupils with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations, recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. The Government has made it clear in the introduction to the framework to the national curriculum that all schools should teach PSHE, drawing on the resources and evidence provided by organisations, such as the PSHE Association.
37. Sex and relationships education (SRE) can provide the knowledge needed to tackle negative attitudes that lead to sexual harassment and violence. SRE must be taught in all maintained secondary schools; we believe that most secondary academies and many primary schools also teach it. Statutory Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) sets out that schools that teach SRE should ensure young people develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgments and behaviour. It also sets out that they should understand how the law applies to sexual relationships.
38. To support this, the Department commissioned the PSHE Association to produce guidance on teaching about the topic of consent, which was published in March 2015. The guidance includes accredited resources to support teachers to introduce ideas about differences, stereotypes and expectations based on gender that are both a cause and consequence of gender inequality.
39. The GEO has also commissioned Media Smart, the education charity at the Advertising Association, to update their media literacy resource for parents and teachers of Key Stage 2 pupils. The resource supports young people to be more informed and resilient consumers of media content, and to recognise and understand the aesthetic and gender stereotypes that often exist in advertising. The update will be published in July 2016.
40. PSHE needs to be taught well. In response to concerns about quality of teaching and 'tick box' approaches, the DfE has asked leading headteachers and practitioners to produce an action plan for improving PSHE. The DfE will continue to keep the status of PSHE under review and work with these experts to identify further action we can take to ensure that all pupils receive high quality, age appropriate PSHE and SRE.
41. In addition to what is taught in PSHE, the national curriculum computing programmes of study cover responsible, respectful and secure use of technology, as well as ensuring that pupils are taught age-appropriate ways of reporting any concerns they may have about what they see or encounter online.