

Safe at School bulletin

News and information for parents

February 2020

‘No Outsiders’ spreads to Catholic primary schools

Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool are using the controversial LGBT inclusive teaching programme ‘No Outsiders’, including in Relationships and Sex Education lessons, as the programme spreads to schools around the country. A recent press report revealed that ‘more than half of schools in Cheshire West’ are already running the ‘No Outsiders’ programme.

Safe at School has said that ‘No Outsiders’ is unfit for use in any primary school. ‘No Outsiders’ undermines marriage, which can only be between one man and one woman. Real marriage protects unborn babies and the welfare of families.



Muslim parents in Birmingham protesting about ‘No Outsiders’

In a newsletter sent to Catholic schools last summer, the Archdiocese of Liverpool Education Department stated that ‘No Outsiders’ is ‘fine to use in school’.

Antonia Tully of Safe at School said: ‘This programme sets out to convey to children that same-sex couples can form valid families and bring up children. It is surprising to find this resource being used in Catholic primary schools.’

Continued on page 3

RSE compulsory in Welsh schools from 2022

Safe at School has condemned the Welsh Government’s move to make Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) a compulsory school subject in all schools in Wales. From 2022 parents in Wales will no longer be able to withdraw their children from RSE lessons.

Antonia Tully of the Safe at School campaign said: ‘This is a staggering move by the Welsh Government. 88.7% of those who responded to their own public consultation last year said that parents should be able to withdraw their children from LGBT+ classes.’

‘Once again, parents are being totally ignored. The Welsh Government has effectively taken over the education of children and teenagers in the sensitive and intimate

...Parents are being denied their right to bring up their children in line with their own beliefs and values.

areas of human relationships and sexuality. This is the task of parents, not the state. And critically parents are being denied their right to bring up their children in line with their own beliefs and values.’

Safe at School will be supporting and advising parents in Wales about what they can do to work with schools to make sure that the new subject does not expose their children to unacceptable and inappropriate teaching.



Authentic teaching on Relationships and Sex Education

A new website brings together a range of teaching resources for parents and schools who are looking for authentic teaching on relationships and sex education.

Launched last summer, RSE Authentic will be a valuable starting point for schools searching for resources to meet the new statutory requirements to teach Relationships Education in primary schools and Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools.

‘Connecting schools with RSE teaching and learning resources that reflect traditional values’ is the stated aim of the RSE Authentic website. RSE Authentic is part of The Values Foundation which has also produced a useful document titled ‘Retaining Values in RSE: A Guide for Schools’.

You can find RSE Authentic at rseauthentic.uk and the Values Foundation at values.foundation



Key information for parents

1. Teaching LGBT relationships is not compulsory in primary schools

Parents should be aware that **primary schools are not legally obliged to teach children about LGBT relationships.** Parents should bring this vital information to the consultation on the Relationships Education policy at their child’s school. Consulting with parents is required by the Government’s statutory guidance on RSE.

In May 2019 Safe at School reported that the Government had stated that: ‘Primary schools are enabled and encouraged to cover LGBT content if they consider it age appropriate to do so, but there is no specific requirement for this.’ In November 2019 the Government changed the wording to read: ‘Primary schools are strongly encouraged and enabled to cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families.’ The Government has watered

down its statement on this matter, but it has still not stated that primary schools must teach LGBT content.

2. Schools must consult with parents on how marriage is taught

It is particularly important that marriage between one man and one woman should not be undermined in the classroom, whatever the individual circumstances of the children.

The Government has clarified that marriage must be taught as part of Relationships Education, even if this topic is covered in other areas of the curriculum, for example PSHE. The Government has stressed that marriage must be part of the Relationships Education policy ‘and **therefore form part of the parental engagement process**’. (Emphasis added.) The parental consultation is the opportunity for parents to speak out against any teaching which confuses children about the real nature of marriage.

Continued – ‘No Outsiders’ spreads to Catholic primary schools

‘No Outsiders’, which sparked protests from parents in Birmingham, introduces children to same-sex relationships. The programme makes use of story books to promote different types of relationships and to raise gender issues with young children. The introduction to the resource states that children ‘need to be learning that they may identify or may not identify as LGBT as they grow up, and that whoever they grow into as an adult is also perfectly normal and acceptable.’

Some of the story books in the ‘No Outsiders’ programme give confusing messages to children about what it means to be a boy or a girl. For example, ‘10,000 dresses’ is a story of a boy who dreams of wearing dresses. Another book ‘Are you a boy or a girl?’ was written by two transgender campaigners.



Antonia Tully said: ‘Schools in Liverpool may be selecting certain parts of “No Outsiders” for use in the classroom, but it is extremely worrying that the programme is being used at all. Schools may view “No Outsiders” as a benign tool to help overcome bullying, but the resource, as a whole, is homosexual propaganda. It has no place in any school.’

In a newsletter to schools last summer, the Archdiocese of Liverpool Education Department stated: ‘Information from No Outsiders is still current and fine to use in school. Given the current climate, it might be better not to post on social media and use the term, All are Welcome for the time being to avoid adverse publicity.’

Mrs Tully said: ‘Parents should check whether “No Outsiders” has been introduced in their child’s school and raise their concerns with the school’s governing body and, in the case of faith schools, with the local bishop or faith representative. Parents in the Archdiocese of Liverpool should contact Fr Michael Fitzsimons, Episcopal Vicar for Education (m.fitzsimons@rcaolp.co.uk) to express their concerns and demand that “No Outsiders” be removed from schools.’



Catholic schools known to be using ‘No Outsiders’ include:

- St Gregory’s (Netherley, Liverpool)
- St John Fisher (Widnes)
- Ursuline (Crosby)
- Our Lady’s Bishop Eton (Liverpool)
- St Basil’s (Widnes)
- Our Lady’s & St Philomena’s (Liverpool)
- Sacred Heart (Liverpool)
- St Joseph’s (Huyton)
- Corpus Christi (Rainford)
- St Catherine of Siena (Warrington)

Parents are getting it right



A poll which asked 1,000 young people aged 16 and 17 to rate the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) they received both at school and from their parents / carers suggests that youngsters still learn a lot about what really matters in life from their parents.

48% of respondents rated the quality of the education on relationships and sex which they received from their parents as 'good' or 'very good', according to the poll conducted by the Sex Education Forum.

Antonia Tully of Safe at School said: 'At a time when parents are systematically undermined, it is encouraging that nearly half of the young people in the survey gave their parents top marks for teaching them about relationships and sex.'

'I'm often told that parents don't want to talk to their children about intimate issues, yet according to this poll only 9% of young people said that they had not learnt

anything about puberty from their parents/carers.'

The poll also found that parents were more likely to have spoken to their children about marriage and 'other committed relationships' than the school. Parents were also more likely than the school to teach their teenage children how to tell if a relationship is healthy or abusive.

And 74% of the young people reported that they 'had learnt all they needed to from their parents about "marriage and other committed relationships"'

Antonia Tully said: 'The Sex Education Forum which conducted this poll should heed what young people are saying, instead of promoting teaching programmes which undermine families. Safe at School has always said that parents are the best people to talk to their children about marriage and relationships.'

GET INVOLVED WITH THE SAFE AT SCHOOL CAMPAIGN!

For further information and to sign up for our email updates please visit www.safeatschool.org.uk. You can also write to us at Safe at School, SPUC, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London, SE11 4AB. Or email us at info@safeatschool.org.uk. For confidential support / advice on RSE in your child's school please call: 020 8407 3463

REPLY FORM

Please send me more copies of this bulletin to distribute to others 10 20 100 Other quantity _____

Please add my email address to the special Safe at School email list to get updates on RSE matters.

Email: _____

Title: _____ Full name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone (include only if you are happy to be contacted by phone): _____

Please return this form to SPUC, Unit B, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London SE11 4AB.