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MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE

Sex Positive | Comprehensive | Relationship & Sex Ed(RSE)

New Training Dates:

Respect yourself provides a number of different open training courses that are available free of charge for professionals that work with young people here in Warwickshire. We update the content regularly, and advise professionals to refresh their training every 2 years to stay up to date.

To book on a course please visit:

www.respectyourself.training.

Please see the details of each course below.

Foundation - talking to Young people about Sex & Relationships.

The truth is if you work with young people, the chances are you will have to engage them in conversations about sex and relationships. Regardless of whether you think you are the right person or not, if they value you as a worker they will talk to you and ask you questions. This training is designed to give professionals a solid foundation, and an understanding of what sex positive RSE looks like, and to build their confidence to talk to the young people they work with to make positive choices.

Inclusive comprehensive RSE passed by parliament.

The new relationship and sex education guidance proposed by the DfE was passed last Wednesday 27th March by parliament, with a huge majority of 538 to 21 votes.

However, getting the new guidance passed through the house has been not been a simple task despite the evidence base and almost unanimous support from both sides...

Instead of celebrating a huge step forward for young people's rights and safety, much of the headlines have instead been distracted by the protests outside schools in Birmingham and Manchester. Some people are concerned whether children in primary school need to know about LGBTQ+ issues or will be able to cope with the information.

So let's move past the headlines and clear things up.

The Equality Act:

In 2010 the Equality Act enshrined in law particular protected characteristics to ensure that all people, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, gender, age or ability would be treated fairly and without discrimination. This means all public bodies, and that includes nurseries and schools, have a legal responsibility to considering the needs of all individuals when carrying out their day to day work, but must also work to protect people and eliminate discrimination.

It's only Banter...

Stories around consent, incidents of slut shaming and examples of rape culture are a permanent feature of social media and the tabloid press - but are they an issue or merely banter? How do you balance flirting and innocent behaviours from sexual harassment and abuse? Where is the line and is there any grey areas when it comes to consent? Designed to prepare professionals to better support young people to develop and maintain healthy relationships in a digital world; with a specific focus around issues of consent, sexting and pornography.

Avoiding the Oops...

This training replaces what were the condom distribution and the pregnancy testing training - instead we have combined the two and added a few extra bits along the way - including how to deal with the emotional fall-out too. Regardless of how well informed, well intentioned or responsible young people may be, mistakes will sometimes happen (remember adults make mistakes too!). This training is designed to enable staff in non-clinical setting to be able help support young people to deal with the fall out of unprotected sex.

Training Dates...

Foundation: Thursday 9th May
Friday 14th June

Banter: Wednesday 5th June

Oops: Tuesday 11th June

This means that schools should have a curriculum, which celebrates differences and fostering good relations between people regardless of their background or identity.

There are nine protected characteristics of Equality Act - but here is a question - what order do they go in... which characteristics trump which...?

There is no correct order - they are all equal - hence the name.

This is an essential point to make - as just because a person has a particular religious belief - that being gay is wrong, for example, this does not have any more value than a persons right to marry, fall in love or have a relationships with someone of the same sex.

All schools have a responsibility to teach children about the world they live in and to remove any form of prejudice or discrimination. **There are no outsiders in our schools - everyone is welcome.**

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO EXPLAINING GAY MARRIAGE TO CHILDREN



A call to schools: are you ready for statutory RSE?

This week we sent out letters to all schools across the county offering information and support to help them get ready for the new statutory guidance for RSE.

We offer a comprehensive programme that meets all the new requirements for both **primary** and **secondary** schools, including: training, curriculum guidance, resources, lesson plans and support around policy. This is free to all schools in Warwickshire.

We have arranged a full day training for PSHE/RSE leads for secondary schools: **Tuesday 14th May.**

For primary we will be hosting a briefing for schools wishing to join the All About Me programme **Tuesday afternoon 11th June.**

LGBTQ+ inclusive RSE:

This means that in the UK it is a legal requirement to ensure all schools are LGBTQ+ friendly and this something that all Ofsted inspections are required to uphold. **This is not new it has been the case for 9 years.**

This legislation made it illegal for nurseries and schools to fail to protect LGBT people and their families. Not only this but all schools should deliver lessons that include stories and examples of diverse family structures and this includes same sex families.

All families are different - some families have a mummy and a daddy, some families have a mummy and daddy but they live in separate houses and their children move between them. Some families have two mummies, a birth mother and a step-mother - and some have two mothers who live together.

Two men can fall in love and get married, just like two women or a man and a woman.

People have children in different ways. Some children have foster carers or are adopted to their forever families. 1-in-8 adoptions in the UK are to same sex couples. Two men, or two women can get married and adopt a child and give them a safe home. Families come in lots of shapes and sizes, but

one thing they should have in common is they care and support each other and everyone feels safe.

Some children will grow up gay or bi-sexual and they need to know that it is ok. We don't want any child regardless of their sexuality to grow-up thinking there is something wrong with them or with their family.

The new guidance for RSE merely continues these messages we have been legally obliged to respect for nearly 10 years. None of this is new. The only difference is now we have an official place to house these lessons - and an opportunity for every child, no matter what shape their family comes in to see them represented and respected in school.

There is absolutely no evidence that talking to children about the realities of the world they live in will make them gay. We are teaching children to not be afraid of difference and to be respectful of everyone, regardless...

To find out more go to www.respectyourself.training or email us at: respectyourself@warwickshire.gov.uk.