



29 November 2021

Dear Members,

I am writing to you with an update about the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) draft Code and supporting statutory guidance.

Under the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021, the Welsh Government is required to publish an [RSE code](#), subject to the draft affirmative procedure. This sets out the mandatory learning in RSE which every school and setting must include in their curriculum for all learners. This learning is set out at developmentally appropriate phases. I am pleased to say that this was laid before the Senedd on 23 November. Both the code and guidance have been co-developed with teachers and a range of stakeholders.

The code is designed to help learners to form and maintain a range of relationships, all based on mutual trust and respect. These relationships are critical to the development of emotional well-being, resilience and empathy. An understanding of sexuality with an emphasis on rights, health, equality and equity empowers learners to understand themselves, take responsibility for their own decisions and behaviours and form relationships that are fully inclusive, reflecting diversity and promoting respect. Social and technological changes only underline how important this learning is for children and young people.

High-quality, holistic and inclusive RSE is associated with a range of positive and protective outcomes for all learners and their communities and can, for example:

- help increase learners' understanding of and participation in healthy, safe, and fulfilling relationships
- help young people recognise abusive or unhealthy relationships and seek support
- help reduce all bullying, including homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, and increase safety and well-being for all learners
- help all learners make informed decisions about sexual intimacy and reproductive health
- help promote equality and equity of sex, gender and sexuality

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of gender-based and sexual violence.

It is of course vital that schools, settings and practitioners are fully supported to deliver this critical aspect of the curriculum. Alongside the RSE code, the Curriculum for Wales framework will therefore also include supporting Statutory Guidance. This recognises that *how* RSE is taught is as important as *what* is taught. I am enclosing a copy of the draft RSE Statutory Guidance, for your information. This guidance will be published upon approval of the Code.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Miles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language