

A close-up photograph of two hands, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, reaching towards each other in a gesture of connection or support. The hands are positioned diagonally across the frame, with the light-skinned hand on the left and the dark-skinned hand on the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Reading Governance Association

Why Relationships Education matters (and what you can do about it)

27th February 2020

Catherine Hine,
c.hine@fastn.org
Family Stability Network
[@fastn_org](https://fastn.org)

Statutory RSE Sept 2020

Relationships and Health
Education in primary & secondary;
RSE in secondary

Written policy with parent
consultation & relevance to
community served

Public Sector Equality Duty

Check the official guidance!

Relationships Education & Ofsted

‘Subject’ delivery in ‘Personal Development’

Initial focus on progress –intent, starting to implement

Are leaders planning, leading, monitoring, allocating resources, holding to account. Effective policy

Engagement with pupils, parents & community

Intent, implementation not impact

Consider ethos & role-modelling

A black and white photograph of students walking on a crosswalk, viewed from behind. A large white circle is overlaid on the image, containing text.

Why Relationships Education matters

Critical brain wiring takes place in childhood & adolescence

Research links life outcomes to childhood brain development

Responsive relationships support healthy brain development
& protect against stress

Relationships skills are learnt... through experience

(Harvard Center on the Developing Child)

Underpins effective safeguarding, mental health,
respect & retention in schools

It matters to students & parents

78% of 14-17-year-olds & 77% of 16-25-year-olds
'long-term, fulfilling relationships are as or more
important as work ambitions'

57% of parents heard of RSE. Parents thought schools
should help children 'understand & be prepared for'
friendship (92%), family relationships (92%),
workplace relationships (87%) & sexual relationships
(85%)

Parents prioritise wellbeing & life skills above
academic achievement (Parentkind)

A black and white photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, a young woman with dark hair is smiling and raising her right hand. To her right, another student with long, curly hair is partially visible. In the background, a teacher or older student is looking towards the camera. The image is partially obscured by a large white circle containing text.

What we heard: *'The most important part of the school curriculum'*

Great relationship education underpins sex ed., safeguarding, mental health & achievement

Teaching healthy / unhealthy relationships & role-modelling throughout school life

Strong ongoing relationships with parents & honest, regular comms about RSHE – why!

Restorative behaviour approaches



What we heard (cont.):

Safe & nurturing environment. Student feedback/ review

Staff training, support & confidence – hard issues & self-awareness/ relational practice

Relevant external providers & follow through

PSED requires relationship building & modelling empathy

Leadership –standards, role model & champion

Implications

Compliance:

Curriculum followed- age/ SEND appropriate
Resourced & trained school
PSED & appropriate consultation
Policy in place & monitored
Safeguarding etc.

Meaningful:

Relationships in vision, mission & values
Role modelling & supporting throughout school life
Parents / community as partners
Supporting young people to have & work
towards relationship ambition



Follow up:

Principles of Excellence
Video interviews with
Governors
Case studies
Contacts

We'd love to hear from
advocate schools &
governors

A close-up photograph of two hands reaching towards each other against a plain grey background. The hand on the left is light-skinned and belongs to a child, wearing a white sleeve. The hand on the right is dark-skinned and belongs to an adult. The fingers are slightly curled, and the palms are facing each other, creating a sense of connection or support.

Thank you!

Catherine Hine,
c.hine@fastn.org
Family Stability Network
[@fastn_org](https://www.facebook.com/fastn_org)