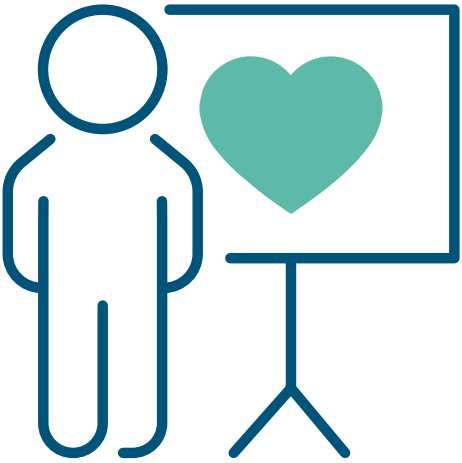
LGBTQIA+ INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Reforming Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is a key priority for not just LGBTQIA+ communities but also those campaigning for children's rights and safeguarding, tackling gender-based violence and improving sexual health. Standardised, inclusive, comprehensive and evidence-based RSE is a key component in reducing social and sexual health inequalities and upholding children's rights.

Reform of RSE was mandated through the introduction of CEDAW recommendations into Northern Ireland law in 2019, which requires lessons include information on prevention of early pregnancy and access to abortion. While this was consulted on publicly late in 2023, this consultation focused on preserving an artificial 'balance' of rights between parents and children, while avoiding addressing changes to the curriculum or minimum content order at all.

Any review of RSE must ensure that evidence-based and inclusive information is made available to all pupils across Northern Ireland, with our particular focus on the need to include positive exploration of LGBTQIA+ identities, experiences and relationships, both to build social cohesion and tolerance in wider society as well as providing vital information to LGBTQIA+ young people on maintaining healthy relationships and safer sex practices.



Relationships and Sexuality Education reform must:

- Deliver comprehensive, inclusive, evidence-based and standardised education on healthy relationships and sexuality to all pupils across all educational institutions in Northern Ireland.
- Include positive representations of LGBTQIA+ identities, relationships and experiences, ensuring LGBTQIA+ pupils are represented in the RSE curriculum.
- Ensure that parents who hold anti-LGBTQIA+ views cannot exclude their child from information on LGBTQIA+ identities and relationships.