

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

### **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**

Thank you to everyone who contacted me in regards to The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019.

On 25th February, the House of Commons held an important debate to discuss whether the existing guidelines for relationships and sex education, last updated in 2000, are fit for the modern world and the challenges facing young people.

Nearly half of LGBT young people are bullied at schools, yet half of them never tell anyone. As such, it is clear that young LGBT people require that their experiences and identities be reflected in their schooling, as well as in wider society, to ensure that they understand their identities and feel sufficiently supported as they grow up. The new guidance requires that LGBT content in RSE be covered in an integrated way, rather than being a standalone part of the curriculum. Together with the expectation that all pupils be taught about them by the end of secondary school, this marks a positive step that will offer vital support to LGBT young people.

Good points were put forward from both sides, addressing the need to teach distinctive faith perspectives on the issues that are raised by RSE, and to respect parents' requests to withdraw their child from the sex element of RSE, up to and until three terms before the child reaches the age of 16.

You can review a full summary of the debate [here](#).

Although I am supportive of the regulations for the reasons outlined by many speakers in the debate, it is important that schools are resourced properly to fulfil their obligations. The Government's additional investment of £6 million amounts to a little over £250 for each of the more than 23,000 schools in England. I am not convinced that kind of budget is sufficient to ensure the curriculum is taught well to each child.

Thanks again to everyone who has got in touch about this issue.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

**Richard Burden MP**

Birmingham Northfield

Labour Member of Parliament for Birmingham Northfield  
[www.richardburden.com](http://www.richardburden.com) – 0207 219 2318 – [burdenr@parliament.uk](mailto:burdenr@parliament.uk)