







In the first year of joining the UKYP, at the top of my list was the issue of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) and when I had the chance to put it forward as an issue to a board of people who I knew had the power to change the way it was taught I jumped to it. If things change for the better, then I know that the past two years were worth it.

**Tyrone Fowles, UKYP**

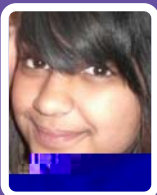
## Young People:

Listed below are a number of thoughts and ideas we had to improve SRE. What do you think?

We think SRE is not just about reducing teenage pregnancy, but it's also about helping us make informed choices for the future.

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Sex and Relationships Education is vital in building our character and enables us to make decisions wisely. I learnt a lot from my experience on this review and look forward to seeing the changes implemented to give Young People the valuable SRE that I myself never received.

**Richyal Rana, Member of UKYP**

## Key points from our survey:

We came up with a series of questions which looked at finding out the views of young people on Sex and Relationship Education including their own experiences within schools and their main sources of information and support. We went to a number of Youth Projects across the city to speak to young people. We hoped that by having young people asking the questions, other young people would be more willing to be open and honest about their experiences.

The key points coming out from the survey were:

- Young people wanted more information on the relationship aspects of SRE which they felt they didn't always get
- Friends and parents were identified as the people young people were most

likely to talk to about issues relating to relationships and sexual health. Teachers and health professionals weren't necessarily the people that young people would automatically go to if they had problems

- When asked about whom they wanted to teach SRE, young people were quite clear that they wanted someone they could trust to talk to about relationship and sexual health issues. They wanted someone who understood what it was like to be a teenager and who was non-judgemental. It was also important that the person had a clear grasp of the subject area in order to present facts and was not embarrassed easily
- The young people highlighted a number of topics such as sexuality, dealing with emotions, parenting, where to go to for help, which they would like to see covered more within their SRE lessons.

# What Schools Can Do:

**We strongly feel that schools should use 21st century teaching materials to teach SRE rather than the old out of date books and videos which are often used.**

We feel SRE should be more flexible and that the lessons should take into account age/culture, ethnicity and maturity of the pupils.

Parents/carers should be told exactly what's being taught so that there are no misunderstandings.

We think involving the school student council in helping teachers come up with ideas on how/what to teach in SRE would also be a great idea.

We think SRE lessons would be better if we didn't know the person leading the session. We don't want embarrassing lessons with teachers we see everyday. We'd find it easier to talk to somebody we didn't know. Other people can help deliver lessons such as Youth Service, Theatre Groups, School Nurses etc.

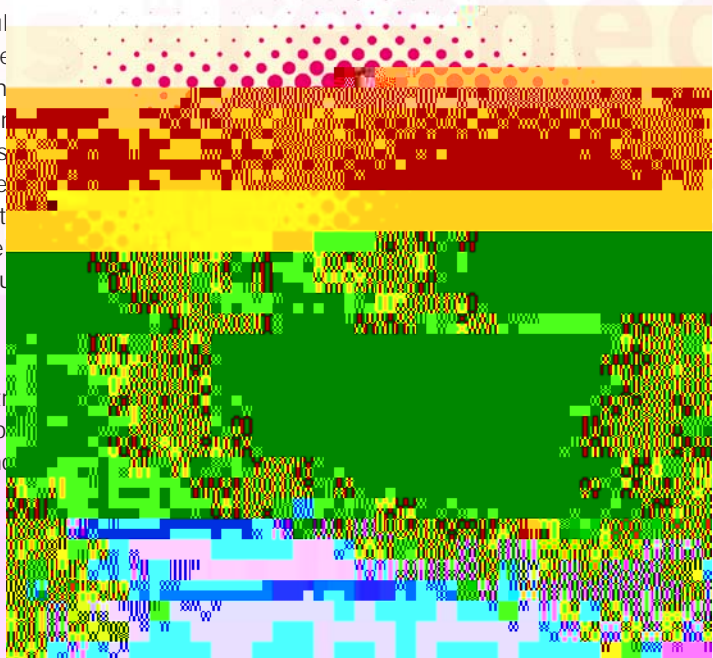
Some pupils may need extra help and support outside of classroom, so teachers should

know where we can get extra help and be able to point us in the right direction.

We all need to be 'working together', for example the council, schools, parents, health agencies, youth organisations and other voluntary and community groups have an important role to play

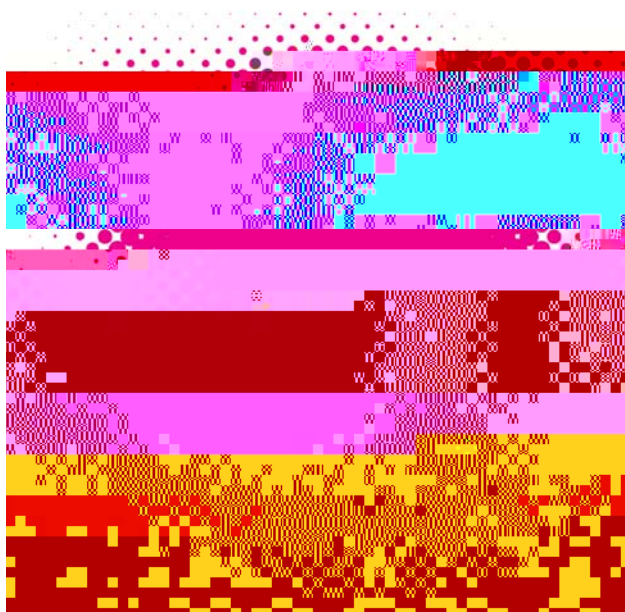
We think SRE should be renamed to 'Relationships and Sex Education' RSE.

All teachers teaching the subject should have the opportunity to make use of the training provided by the City Council.

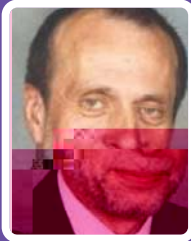


Our School Governor Survey highlighted a number of interesting points:

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# Birmingham City Council:



I very much welcome the work carried out by the Review group looking at 'Education on Relationships and Sexual Health.' The mature approach taken by the young people on this important topic has been truly commendable.  
Cllr Les Lawrence

**In our final report we have asked the City Council to take forward a number of our ideas and suggestions. The Council has agreed to do the following things:**

- To ask schools to consider renaming the subject 'Relationships and Sexual Health' (RSE)
- To look at having a minimum standard of high quality SRE that is provided to all pupils within our city
- To create a Multi Faith Forum to look at SRE issues
- To look for additional funding to support schools in improving SRE
- To develop a guide and new material for Parents and Governors to explain

what is being taught to pupils and how it is going to be delivered

- To encourage all Schools to have qualified staff to teach SRE
- To make teenage pregnancy figures and other statistics available to schools
- To continue to work with UKYP Birmingham and Birmingham Children and Young Peoples Parliament (BCYPP)
- To encourage Schools to have a SRE champion within each school cluster.

The Council has agreed to implement these recommendations by May 2010.

marriage

**friendship**

self-esteem

emotions

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