

SELECT RESOURCES

While all may not completely align with the values of the Free Church, the relevant web page may be found useful:

A guide from the Christian Institute as to what schools can and cannot do in the name of equality and human rights:

cve-scotland.org.uk/resources/equippedfor-equality/

Time to Talk Evangelical Alliance

eauk.org

A blog by Megan Patterson on the RSHP strand of the curriculum:

cve-scotland.org.uk/the-rshp-strand-is-seriouslyaffecting-my-health-and-wellbeing/

Guidance for parents on RSHP:

cve-scotland.org.uk/resources/rshpguidance-for-parents-carers/

Lovewise is a charity that seeks to help parents, youth groups, and schools by providing presentations on the subjects of marriage, sex, and relationships from a Christian perspective:

lovewise.org.uk

An outline of the dangers of pornography, including help for young people from a Christian perspective: message.org.uk/the-message-today/

This organisation has some very helpful material: fightthenewdrug.org/about/

Protecting children online: cybersafescotland.org/

Scottish Government guidelines and requirements of the Curriculum for Excellence:

education.gov.scot/Documents/All-experiencesoutcomes18.pdf

gov.scot/publications/conduct-relationships-sexual-health-parenthoodeducation-schools

Supporting Transgender Pupils In Schools: Guidance for Scottish Schools:

education.gov.scot

education.gov.scot/media/xpgo5atb/supporting-transgender-pupils-schoolsguidance-scottish-schools_.pdf

The following book comes with a participant's guide:

McDowell, Sean & Wallace, Warner (2019) *So the next generation will know: Preparing young Christians for a challenging world*. David C Cook

Transformed – A brief biblical and pastoral introduction to understanding transgender in a changing culture from Evangelical Alliance (2019).

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RELATIONSHIPS SEXUAL HEALTH & PARENTHOOD (RSHP):

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



FREE CHURCH
of SCOTLAND

ABOUT

There is a growing secularisation of society in Scotland today. One of the consequences of this is that Christian parents, pupils, and teachers face many challenges in schools as the education system becomes more secular. This guide is designed to offer guidance and support on:

» parental rights

» signposting where more details can be accessed in relation to curriculum content around Relationships, Sexual Health, and Parenting ('RSHP')

» informing parents how to access advice and support

It is important to remember that all schools should be keen to support effective partnership working between pupils, parents, and school staff.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

1. Equality law requires schools to protect, not promote, certain beliefs or faiths. They must not discriminate in how they educate or treat pupils.
2. Equality law does not dictate what is taught in schools.
3. Respecting people does not require that we have to agree with them. Teaching respect in schools should not include the promotion of particular beliefs or lifestyle choices.
4. Schools must educate, not indoctrinate. State schools have a legal duty to provide education without indoctrinating children or seeking to recruit them to any cause. The state must respect the right of parents to ensure that the education provided is not at odds with their own religious and philosophical convictions.
5. Schools cannot compel thought and expression but should encourage it.
6. A school must not compel a pupil to express their beliefs if the pupil would prefer not to.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PARENTS

Parents should:

» have direct access to the school, including having someone that they can contact

» know what is happening in the school (e.g., through the school handbook, newsletters, website, social media, parent council minutes, and email communications)

» know how to access information readily, as sometimes it may seem as if there is too much information, and it is difficult to know where to begin

» know how to raise concerns and how to withdraw their child from RSHP

» know that their rights will be respected (e.g., parents have a right to know what is being taught in each subject and when and supported by which resources – if you have concerns about any aspect of the syllabus, you should contact the school)

HOW TO ACCESS CURRICULUM CONTENT

The school's handbook should give an overview of curriculum content. Detailed information about the Scottish curriculum is available on Education Scotland's website - education.gov.scot

If your child is in Senior Phase (S4 – 6), then the curriculum content for the various subjects can be accessed on the SQA website - sqa.org.uk

National RSHP Resources - RSHP.scot

Your individual school will be able to answer any questions you may have about specific curriculum content in any curricular area.

ADVICE AND SUPPORT

There are several useful websites and resources. Some examples include:

» Scottish Schools Parental Involvement Act 2006 (the Statutory Guidance was revised in 2020).

» European Convention of Human Rights (specific section of the website e.g., the Sexual and Reproductive Health pages).

» The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.



WHERE TO GET HELP

If you have a concern, you should contact the school. A face-to-face meeting with school staff might be beneficial at some stage.

EXAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Dear **[Name of headteacher/principal]**,

[Child's name and date of birth]

I am contacting you regarding the RSHP lesson materials used in my child's class.

My primary concern is the over-sexualisation of my child as the lesson material I have viewed is explicit and not entirely appropriate for children in this age bracket. I also have concerns with the advice given on pornography and the education regarding trans people.

I would appreciate being able to discuss this with you further; in person, online, or by telephone.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

[Name]

You may wish to express your appreciation and support of other aspects of the school

