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**B I L L**

TO

Require schools to provide sex and relationships education to registered pupils; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Sex and relationships education: manner of provision**

(1) Section 403 of the Education Act 1996 (sex education: manner of provision) is amended as set out in subsections (2) to (5).

(2) In subsection (1), for the words from the beginning to “at a maintained school” there is substituted “The governing body or other proprietor of any school to which this section applies, and its head teacher, must take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that sex and relationships education is given to registered pupils at the school and that”.

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(3) After that subsection there is inserted—

“(1ZA) The schools to which this section applies are—

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- (a) maintained schools;
- (b) city technology colleges;
- (c) city colleges for the technology of the arts;
- (d) Academies.

A reference in this section or section 404 to the governing body of a school, in relation to a school within paragraph (b), (c) or (d), shall be read as a reference to the proprietor of the school.”

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(4) In subsection (1A)—

- (a) for “when sex education is given to registered pupils at maintained schools” there is substituted “when sex and relationships education is given to registered pupils at schools to which this section applies”;
- (b) in paragraph (a), after “, and” there is inserted “learn the nature of civil partnership and the importance of strong and stable relationships.”;
- (c) paragraph (b) is omitted.

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- (5) In subsection (1C), for “sex education” there is substituted “sex and relationships education”.
- (6) In section 579 of that Act (general interpretation), in the definition of “sex education” in subsection (1) –
- (a) for “sex education” there is substituted “sex and relationships education”;
  - (b) at the end there is inserted –  
“but does not include education about human reproduction provided as part of any science teaching;”.
- 2 Exemption from sex and relationships education**
- For section 405 of the Education Act 1996 there is substituted –
- “405 Exemption from sex and relationships education**
- (1) If a pupil of sufficient maturity in attendance at a school to which section 403 applies requests to be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex and relationships education at the school, the pupil shall be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.
  - (2) The Secretary of State must in regulations define “sufficient maturity”.
  - (3) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (2) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
  - (4) The Secretary of State must lay draft regulations before Parliament before the end of the period of 3 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.”.
- 3 Short title, commencement and extent**
- (1) This Act may be cited as the Sex and Relationships Education Act 2011.
  - (2) This Act comes into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint.
  - (3) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

# Sex and Relationships Education Bill

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To require schools to provide sex and relationships education to registered pupils; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Chris Bryant,  
Ms Diane Abbott, Sir Peter Soulsby,  
Jessica Morden, Nick Smith, Katy Clark,  
Mrs Sharon Hodgson, Luciana Berger,  
Karl Turner, Heidi Alexander  
and Alex Cunningham.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 8 September 2010.*

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