

# Relationships, health and sex education independent review: terms of reference

The independent panel will advise the Secretary of State, on the review of the relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) statutory guidance, focusing on age appropriateness in RSHE.

## Arrangements and Administration

Panel members will be expected to spend a minimum of two to three days per month working on the project.

Any information that is shared with or generated by the panel, as part of this work, must be treated confidentially. Where panel members would like to share any information relating to the work of the panel and its views, this should be discussed and agreed with the Department first.

It will be for the panel to determine how often they meet and how they will conduct their investigation, but we would expect the panel to report to their contact at the Department regularly.

We expect the panel quorate to be at least three members.

The Department will provide dedicated secretariat support, which will support all aspects of the panel's work, including supporting the identification of further experts and stakeholders for the panel to engage with and providing support for arranging meetings, notetaking and support with drafting and finalising recommendations.

We expect the majority of the panel's meetings will be conducted remotely, with occasional attendance at face to face meetings.

In line with Cabinet Office guidelines, we expect panel members to give their time on a voluntary basis, although any reasonable expenses will be reimbursed. Expenses claimed must be in line with the Department's guidance, a copy of which will be provided to panel members.

## Governance

The panel will be independent and decide on its own recommendations to make to the Secretary of State on age restrictions, including whether some topics are unsuitable.

The SoS will decide on any changes to the statutory guidance, including how to reflect the recommendations of the panel.

The DfE secretariat for the panel will report to the RSHE Review Programme Team, led by Matthew Hopkinson, Deputy Director of Life Skills Division.