

Welcome to this issue of CViE *Education Matters*, for June 2023.

Education Matters is designed to provide parents and those interested in education with current “snippets” and links to information that might be of help in understanding and dealing with educational issues and bringing up children in a society that, on the whole, does not hold any respect for biblical teaching.

Please contact us at enquiries@cvie.org.uk, if there are topics that you think would be interesting to cover in future editions of *Education Matters*.

In this edition we cover the following:

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- A Response to an Employer's Request for Pronouns
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- The 'war' on truth and children?
- What are children being taught?
- Shameful behaviour – the treatment of Izzy Montague's case
- Is Attending a Wedding an Endorsement? How To Decide If You Should Go
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF CViE

Dear Friends and Supporters of Christian Values in Education,

Welcome to the latest edition of Education Matters. At a busy time of the year for families, students and educationalists, there is also much to consider and pray over personally and collectively.

Firstly, we would pray for those students in the midst of the important exam season and especially that they will be able to commit all that they have to do unto the Lord. How often we consider 'self-help' in these circumstances, whether it be in revision or study guides. How easily we forget that we have a far greater aid in our Sovereign Lord! We wish all those in this path every success. It is also important to remember that there are sometimes those difficult circumstances when success is not granted and there is regret over what might have been. We do well to remember that the Lord orders all our ways, and the truth of these words -

*Disappointment, His Appointment
Change one letter, then I see
That the thwarting of my purpose
Is God's better choice for me.*

The rising emotional cost and damage caused by the transgender debate continues to permeate at every level. This issue deals with the problem of pronouns and how an employee sought advice. Personal testimony is always a powerful tool of communication, and we hope our readers will be encouraged by 'A Response to an Employer's Request for Pronouns'. There is also an article by Ken Ham and Rosaria Butterfield on the same topic. Rosaria is a

particularly powerful example of one brought out of darkness into the light of the gospel, and her response here is certainly worth a read.

Since the last edition, there have been well-documented cases in the press which we cover here on Joshua Sutcliffe, 'Hannah' (a recent case where names are protected) and Issy Montague, teachers and a parent respectively, who have made a stand and suffered greatly for the cause of truth. We would add our voice of support to them and that, as is noted, they will know the Lord's help in the midst of great difficulty. The truth costs those who stand firm to Scriptural principles, as it has throughout history. May we be similarly faithful.

Finally, I would signpost the article 'Are Smartphones Bad for Kids?'. With so much pressure on mental health services in this country, all parents with children of this age should read this. It also links to the second talk at our National Conference in September, which we have entitled 'Weapons of Mass Distraction'. There is a link to the conference included later. I extend a warm welcome to you all to that event on 23rd September, God-willing.

As we start this difficult month of June, with the focus in many places on all that is dishonouring to the Word and our Lord, we send our prayerful best wishes to all who find their path affected. There is an extra section on this in the Ethics and Societal section.

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10

*With warm regards
Dan Sayers*

CViE Chair
www.cvie.org.uk

ETHICAL AND SOCIETAL ISSUES

These first two contributions on the use of pronouns are very relevant as God-dishonouring ideologies concerning gender and transgender permeate society. It seems hard to believe that in a relatively short period of time society has moved from recognition of two sexes, male and female (Genesis 1:26-27), to one where 'gender' is seen as a new category of identity, opening the way to the confusion that the transgender agenda has brought.

A Response to an Employer's Request for Pronouns

This article may be of help to someone who is facing having to make a stand over using pronouns that they may disagree with either at work or other social situations. The article relates to an individual who was asked by their company to display their pronouns. A copy of their measured and yet faithful response is provided in the article. The outcome was that the individual's employers were open to what had been written and he was told the pronouns were not mandatory.

The article also raises the need for much prayer in dealing with these matters as the outcome could well be the loss of a job. We do not know what is before us (neither did those recorded

in Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*) yet the Lord has promised **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee** (Hebrews 13:5).

The article can be found at: [A Response to an Employer's Request for Pronouns](#) .

She/Her and He/Him: Should We Use Transgender Pronouns?

This readable post by Ken Ham (Answers in Genesis) considers whether Christians should use transgender pronouns, and includes the following important observations (it is difficult to imagine it being put more succinctly or clearly) –

“As believers, we cannot in good conscience use transgendered pronouns—no matter our intentions—because, in doing so, we are lying. When we use she/her (or Miss or Mrs.) for a man or he/him (or Mr.) for a female, we are participating in the lie that sex/gender is on a spectrum or that a man can be a woman and a woman a man. Or if we use “they/them” (or Mx., etc.) or the myriad of other ‘pronoun’ options today, we are participating in the lie that humans are not innately sexed as either male or female. We’re participating in the lie that humans can choose to be or are naturally androgynous or ambiguous, when that is not true because God has created us either male or female. We aren’t self-made people who can be whatever we want. We have been created by God as either male or female (Genesis 1:27). Yes, gender/biological sex is binary. We are either male or female, and males cannot become females, and females cannot become males (no amount of external changes from drugs or surgeries changes your DNA, which is inherently sexed, or how God has created you). Using transgendered pronouns is lying about how God has created someone. We are not to live by lies. Satan is the father of lies and a liar from the beginning (John 8:44). We should not contribute to his deception by lying to others. Rather, we stand on the truth, pointing people to the One who is Truth (John 14:6) and whose Word is truth (John 17:17).”

The post also considers the question of causing offence and how we might handle this matter practically. There is also a useful footnote that deals with inter-sex conditions.

The blog post also includes a reference to an article by Rosaria Butterfield, “Why I no longer use Transgender Pronouns—and Why You shouldn’t, either”. Rosaria Butterfield was associated with the LGBTQ+ movement and in a same-sex relationship until the Lord brought her from darkness into light in 1999. In the article, she makes the profound statement – “My use of transgender pronouns was not a mistake; it was a sin” – and she offers eight statements to illustrate the point. For anyone dealing with using transgendered pronouns this article may help them to prayerfully consider with an open Bible how they should respond.

The Ken Ham blog post can be found by [clicking here](#) and the Rosaria Butterfield article by [clicking here](#).

The stark reality of the sacrifices Christians may be called to make regarding “misgendering” was highlighted on the Christian Concern website (May 23, 2023) with the headline “Christian teacher banned by Education Secretary for calling a female pupil ‘her’”. The article relates to a Christian maths teacher who has been banned by the Secretary of State for Education for “bringing the profession into disrepute” for not using the preferred pronouns of a female student who identified as a boy. The teacher, Joshua Sutcliffe, has been banned by the Teaching

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Regulation Authority (TRA) from teaching in any capacity for at least two years and potentially indefinitely. Joshua will appeal against the decision and the Christian Legal Centre will “stand with him for as long as it takes to get justice”. More detail can be found on the Christian Concern website by [clicking here](#).

Since writing the paragraph above, the Christian Legal Centre have [reported](#) that the TRA have given Joshua an indefinite ban from the teaching profession, which he will appeal. Joshua Sutcliffe’s situation was also reported in *The Times* on Wednesday, 24 May 2023 and the article can be found by [clicking here](#) (this article may be behind a ‘pay wall’).

CViE would be pleased to hear anonymously from anyone who may have been faced with a similar situation and willing to share their handling of the matter so as to encourage others, especially those finishing school or university and entering the workplace. Please contact us at enquiries@cvie.org.uk.

The ‘war’ on truth and children?

This post “The ‘war’ on truth and Children?” published on the Association of Christian Teachers (ACT) website was written by a secondary Science teacher highlighting the dangers of transgender ideologies and the confusion that it brings to schoolchildren, especially young girls. The post ends with the following reflection:

“When delivering some crucial caster sugar for one of her wonderful cakes the day before I wrote this, my Granny helpfully read me her Spurgeon devotional for that morning, from Hebrews 13v13: **Jesus, bearing His cross, went to suffer outside the gate.** The Christian’s reason for leaving the camp of the world’s sin and religion is not because he loves to be isolated, but because Jesus did so;... In the same way, Christ’s people must “go to him.” They must take their position “outside the camp”, as witness-bearers for the truth... A moment’s shame will be well-rewarded by eternal honour; a little while of witness-bearing will seem nothing when we are forever with the Lord. There will soon come a time for every one of us when we will have to face such a decision; for me, it seems to be now. If we as God’s people aren’t taking a stand for the truth and for children, who will?”

It is a question in the last paragraph perhaps we will need to reflect on as to our stand for the truth in this time the Lord has placed us upon the earth; as David identified when Israel was faced by Goliath, **is there not a cause?** (1 Samuel 17:29) The blog post can be found [here](#).

Further to the article above, on 12 May 2023 Christian Concern reported the case of a Christian primary school teacher who lost her job for raising safeguarding concerns about a child who was due to join her class. The child wanted to identify as the opposite gender, with the support and backing of the controversial transgender campaign group Mermaids. But because of the teacher’s Christian beliefs, and the scientific evidence to back her up, she could not go along with this. The school sadly brushed the concerns aside, and after she sought a judicial review of the school’s policy, she was then dismissed for gross misconduct.

With the support of the Christian Legal Centre, she is appealing her dismissal. More detail can be found by [clicking here](#).

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A video is available where the teacher concerned (referred to as 'Hannah' for legal reasons) explains the situation she was faced with and why she took the stand that she has. What comes over is 'Hannah's' sincerity and desire to do that which is not harmful to those that she taught. The video can be found by clicking [here](#). We do pray that 'Hannah' and others like her who are standing for conscience's sake and their faith will prove that **The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms** (Deuteronomy 33:27).

What are children being taught?

CViE has often made the point that parents have entrusted their children to the school of their choice - do they know what they are being taught, especially in Relationships and Sex Education?

Christian Concern have highlighted in an article on their website "CofE primary school dismisses parental concerns over explicit sex education" the challenges faced by a parent who raises concerns about material being used in RSE classes in the Swanton Morley CofE Primary School in Norfolk. The material does not appear to be age-appropriate, nor does there seem to be any consultation with this appearance over the use of the materials. The school's website has a link to its RSHE policy although the article indicates this was not available. The materials being used are produced by Educator Solutions, the trading name of Norfolk County Council which apparently produces RSHE material for the region. (As an observation, one of the challenges teachers who may have to teach RSE is the time and/or expertise to prepare teaching materials and so 'oven-ready' products produced by a third party are seen as a solution. The challenge has been how these third parties have been moderated regarding the suitability of the material produced - something that hopefully the review of the statutory RSHE guidance will address.)

Andrea Williams (Chief Executive, Christian Concern) has made a short video raising awareness of the materials being used at the Swanton Morley Primary School. In the video Andrea Williams, in her effusive way, draws on the material being used and expresses concerns about the appropriateness of the material and its ideological base. The video does not hold back on what is being taught and a description is given of images portraying sexual organs and intercourse that Year 7-11 children will be exposed to. As Andrea Williams reinforces, do parents know what is being taught to the children in Sex and Relationship Education? Are they (and we) prepared to make a stand for what we believe? The video can be found by clicking [here](#).

In the previous issue of *Education Matters*, reference is made to the letter sent out on 31 March 2023 (the last day of the Easter term) to schools clarifying their responsibility to share teaching materials with parents particularly relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) resources. The Secretary of State for Education has stated in the letter that "The Department is clear that parents should be able to view all curriculum materials". If you are considering approaching your child's school with a desire to view RSHE resources then it may be worth reading and/or having a copy of the letter with you which can be found by clicking [here](#).

It is appreciated that schools have taken different approaches to RSHE. Whatever approach has been taken, if you do not find out what is happening in your child's school then how do you know what is being taught?

Shameful behaviour – the treatment of Izzy Montague’s case

This article by Roger Kiska, Christian Legal Centre, centres around Izzy Montague, a Christian mother who raised “objections to her son receiving what she understood to be highly ideological and age-inappropriate LGBT education, including forced participation in an LGBT-themed parade held by the school.” Following her objection, the school engaged in a pattern of behaviour which eventually led to the Montague’s removing their son from the school and bringing a legal challenge over their treatment. The Country Court dismissed her claims for discrimination, victimisation and breaches of the Human Rights Act and Equality Act. The Montagues, supported by the Christian Legal Centre, will appeal the case.

In the judgment, the Court ruled that “the school curriculum escapes review under the Human Rights Act. At paragraph 72 of the judgment, the court found: “I am satisfied that the Claimants do not have right to claim under the HRA in relation to the content of the curriculum.” However, the Court repeatedly references two cases where the European Court of Human Rights did in fact find violations under the European Convention on Human Rights, due to the content of the national curriculum. Had he read the judgments he cited, this would have been obvious, since the cases were only about challenges to the national curriculum. Perhaps more than anything, the Court was wrong to tell the Montagues how they should be manifesting their Christian beliefs. The Court must have also been keenly aware that the way the judgment speaks to LGBT teaching being consistent with the Montague’s Christian beliefs would be highly offensive to them.”

We do pray that the Lord will go before the Montagues in the path that is before them and that they might prove **for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed** (1 Samuel 2:30). Roger Kiska’s article can be found by [here](#).

In view of the many challenges faced by Christian parents and teachers around sex and relationships education, promotion of God-dishonouring ideologies and the transgender agenda, CViE Trustees are thankful that **Roger Kiska has agreed to speak, at the forthcoming National Conference on Saturday 23 September 2023**, on the legal rights of parents in the educational context. Further details of the CViE National Conference can be found by [here](#).

Is Attending a Wedding an Endorsement? How To Decide If You Should Go

There may well be those reading this *Education Matters* who have been faced with the dilemma of attending a wedding (sometimes of those close to us) where for conscience and the truth’s sake we have not felt able to attend.

This article deals with this matter in a loving and faithful way; it may well be of help especially to young people and adults and having to resolve the dilemma they are faced with – a dilemma created for Christians by the revolution that has taken place regarding sexuality, marriage, divorce, and the nature of the family. The following extracts from the article may be of help:

“Marriage has come to be viewed as a means to cement a deepening commitment between two people, or even as a way to express intense romantic feelings without much thought to lifelong mutual obligation. Questions of morality and sexual ethics—of what’s right and good

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and true—are banished, almost entirely, from mind. A wedding is now an elective procedure that centres exclusively on the wishes of the parties involved. Under these conditions, when Christians push back on a loved one's intention to marry, their ethical objections often come as a complete surprise and are met with uncomprehending outrage. Their concerns are seen only as casting ill will on what the bride or groom assumes will be their special day. "Why can't you just be happy for me?" on the lips of a deeply loved friend or family member can exert a powerful pull on our hearts and cloud our judgment as we try to think clearly and make faithful and loving decisions in light of biblical truth. One way to navigate these complex ethical conundrums is to ask some foundational questions: "What is a wedding?" and "What kind of act am I engaged in when I attend a wedding?" Answering these questions can help us decide when to go and when to stay home."

The author concludes with the following reflection: "Of course, we need to be clear that a decision not to attend may cause confusion and hurt, and it might well come at a high relational cost to us. And yet, in this cultural moment, these are decisions Christians will be called upon to make more and more frequently. We must find a way to adjust our expectations and consider these decisions part of the cost of discipleship. Having said that, if we find we cannot in good conscience attend, we ought to make every possible effort to signal our continued love and concern for the couple in other ways, as we seek to extend and communicate the grace of Christ to broken people who bear the image of their Maker. To be a wedding guest is an honour and a responsibility. Let's say "yes" when we can and "no" out of love for Christ—who calls us to love our neighbours by loving him first."

The full text of the article can be found [here](#).

CViE would be pleased to hear anonymously from anyone who may have been faced with a similar situation and willing to share their handling of the matter so as to encourage others, especially parents who may have to explain to their children the stand that is being taken and/or young people faced with this challenging situation. Please contact us at: enquiries@cvie.org.uk.

Pride - What's the harm?

Lovewise have published this article on [LovewiseOnline](#) (which is designed for young people aged 13+ to help them navigate, from a biblical perspective the ethical and social issues in society) to help Christian young people think critically about the ideological messages underlying Pride, and help them respond in a way that honours God.

The article traces out the history of 'Pride marches' since the Stonewall riots in 1969, and the comment is made: "Increasingly schools are holding their own Pride events and encouraging pupils to celebrate an ever-growing range of sexual and gender identities they are told they can choose from. Your school may well be holding events and as a Christian you may be feeling under pressure to join in, or you may be worried that not joining in might mean being labelled as homophobic or transphobic." The article goes on to provide a number of helpful reflections which young people and others may find useful in making a stand for those things they believe. More detail can be [here](#).

We are warned to **be sober and vigilant** in the word of God and perhaps moreso during 'Pride Month'. It has been recently brought to CViE's attention that during 'Pride Month' there may be activities going on such as non-uniform days when children may be asked to make a donation to a charity. It behooves parents to read carefully what is required and who is the charity concerned together with researching the charity's website so that they do not give money to organisations that they would fundamentally disagree with.

CViE would also encourage those who have not done so to read a recent post on our website, "Preparing for PRIDE Month". The post brings together a number of articles grouped under a series of headings including the workplace and school, and we do trust that our supporters will find this a useful reference point in dealing with the challenges in the day in which the Lord has placed us. More detail can be found [here](#).

TECHNOLOGY

Social Media May Be Impacting Your Child's Mental Health

This blog post on the "Enough Is Enough" website is designed to raise awareness of mental health issues in adolescents and sadly, there are sometimes serious consequences of actions taken by young people to deal with the dark place they are in.

The blog post also contains a link to a three-minute video tracing out the impact of social media on the life of an adolescent female who develops eating disorders that need medical treatment. (There is a warning at the beginning of the video that the content may be upsetting) Although the video is secular in nature, let us not forget the hidden danger of phrases such as "there is no harm in it" and "it will never happen to us".

For those wishing to read the blog, please click [here](#).

We would also draw attention to the recording of the presentation at the CViE National Conference 2019 "Mental Health: A Parent's Journey" which can be found by [clicking here](#).

In prayer meetings, prayer is often made for the rising generation - how these prayers need to be continually made and also to lovingly warn of the dangers that surround us.

Are Smartphones Bad for Kids?

This is the subject of a podcast by Cal Newport, computer science professor at Georgetown University, who also writes about the intersections of technology, work, and the quest to find depth in an increasingly distracted world. In this video consideration is given to the question whether concerns over social media and children are just an example of another "moral panic" over new technology. The podcast is based on a talk given to parents of school age where he considers the research and data available to conclude that there are dangers faced by children and young people from smartphones, especially if they do not have the maturity needed in using and coping with the technology.

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The podcast commences at 3:27 with an explanation of how researchers came to be worried about the use of technology and smart phones by children and young people. At 28:29, consideration is given to “Why is social media causing these harms?” together with the impact that these harms have on young minds. Finally, at 33:30, the question “Where are we headed?” This section was interesting from the viewpoint that there may well be a need for legislation to limit the age at which young people can have access to smart phones.

This latter point was also made in the documentary ‘Childhood 2.0’, that CViE brought to the attention of its supporters in 2022, where the point was made that we would not give our children the keys to a car until they were competent to drive safely, so why then give a smart phone to a child or young person without the skills to use it safely so that they do not come to harm? (See the CViE blog post “[Digital Dangers: Be sober, be vigilant](#)”).

We would encourage you to view Cal Newport’s blog post by visiting [here](#). (The podcast ends at 42:00, and there is further content considering related matters, however, it is the well-reasoned presentation by Cal Newport on the topic of smart phones for children that will be of benefit to parents and others wrestling with the pressure to let the children have a smart phone)

The Surgeon-General’s warning is a wake-up call for social networks

Having written the contribution above “Are Smartphones Bad for Kids?”, we had an email highlighting and reinforcing the points made by Cal Newport in a report from the US Surgeon General who with his team synthesised a decade of research into the risk posed by social networks, and concluded that the potential for harm is significant.

The following has been extracted from a review of the report by Casey Newman who writes on the *Platformer* site:

“The full report is well worth reading in its entirety. But several aspects of the surgeon general’s findings are worth calling out. One, children are starting to use social media too young. The report found two in five children have begun using social networks between the ages of 8 and 12 — a deeply vulnerable time where it seems unlikely to me that the potential benefits outweigh the risks. And this comes despite the fact that companies’ own terms of service typically forbid children under 13 from using them. Platforms really ought to do more to keep young children off their platforms — and not openly court them with cynical growth-hack products like [Messenger Kids from Meta](#). Two, we’re learning a lot about what *kinds* of children are at higher risk of harm from social networks. It includes adolescent girls; kids with mental health issues; kids who have been cyber-bullied; kids with body image issues and disordered eating; and kids whose sleeping patterns have been disrupted by social media. Parents of children in these categories should pay particularly close attention to their kids’ social media use. Three, there’s growing evidence that frequent social media usage can negatively affect the development of the body. “Small studies have shown that people with frequent and problematic social media use can experience changes in brain structure similar to changes seen in individuals with substance use or gambling addictions,” the report states.

Moreover, it noted that “a longitudinal prospective study of adolescents without ADHD symptoms at the beginning of the study found that, over a 2-year follow-up, high-frequency use of digital media, with social media as one of the most common activities, was associated with a modest yet statistically significant increased odds of developing ADHD

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symptoms.” Four, a simple intervention that seems to produce significantly positive results is simply to reduce the time children spend using it. Spending more than three hours a day on social networks doubles the risk of bad mental health outcomes, including depression and anxiety. Voluntary screen-time controls don’t seem to be doing enough here; lawmakers should consider creating and enforcing daily time limits for apps like these.”

Although the article is secular in nature, it does reinforce the concerns that have been expressed by Christian commentators and the need for parents to be aware and manage their child’s use of smart phones and perhaps to heed the warning of the need to restrict access until the age of 16?

The *Platformer* summary can be found [here](#) and the US Surgeon-General’s report can be found [here](#). This report supplements the contribution above “Social Media May Be Impacting Your Child’s Mental Health” and further resources can be found on the Internet Safety 101 [webpages](#).

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The Spring edition of *Education Matters* featured an article relating to the use of AI by students in writing assignments for their coursework. Since that time, AI has become a regular topic in the news and the current concern is over the impact this technology may have on jobs and the way we live. As is sometimes quoted “technology is a good servant but a bad master” and the same thing can be said for AI.

We have come across an article with the interesting title “As a Christian, I went down the AI Rabbit Hole. Here Are 12 Things I Discovered”. In the article, the author identifies 12 points for consideration. The following are ones that particularly struck us: AI is not ethically neutral, but is furnished with the ethics of its designers - this may seem self-evident, however, in our use of technology do we ever consider the worldview of the individuals and organisations behind the product?; AI creation is driven by the profit incentive more than by doing-good incentive - how many have been caught up in the algorithms to help produce revenue for social media companies? The big question for us as individuals, workplaces, families, and as a society is: how can we use AI rather than be used by AI? As Christians we need to be so careful not to be taken up with these developments but heed the warnings of Scripture to **be vigilant**. The article can be found [here](#).

Finally: Although there is much in this issue of *Education Matters* that may be of concern, let us look up unto the Lord - remembering he has promised to hear the prayers of his people in the day of trouble and deliver them (Psalm 50:50); the Apostle Paul wrote, **What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us** (Romans 8:31); the Lord Jesus has declared that he is the rock upon which His true church is built and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it** (Matthew 16:18).

EDUCATION

Government publications

The following publications regarding education have been recently published by the Government. Some of the topics have been prominent in the news, others have not. These items have been included to alert and equip parents and others interested in education as to what is happening in the wider world of state education.

House of Commons Library

Relationships and sex education in English Schools

This webpage has been published by the House of Commons Library under the heading of 'casework'. These webpages are a means of providing MPs with information to help in answering questions from their constituents. The webpage provides information on what the requirements are for the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education in schools in England and may also act as an accessible reference point for parents, teachers and others interested in the topic of RSHE.

One of the questions addressed and answered is: "Are children taught sex education in primary school? **Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools**. However, the Department for Education does recommend in the guidance that each primary school offers age-appropriate sex education."

Although this is the stated position, one of the areas that has perhaps not been sufficiently addressed since the introduction of the Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) statutory guidance is defining and addressing what is 'age-appropriate' (as illustrated by the concerns raised by a parent in the article below "What are children being taught?"). It is to be hoped that the DfE's review of the RSHE guidance will pay sufficient attention to this matter. More detail can be found [here](#).

Autism: Overview of policy and services

This briefing provides an overview of policies and services for those on the Autistic spectrum in England and reference is made within the document to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The briefing can be found [here](#).

Student mental health in England: Statistics, policy, and guidance

This briefing includes data on student mental health, discussing whether universities have a duty of care, and highlights Government policy and sector guidance. Further detail can be found [here](#).

National Numeracy Day

A Westminster Hall debate was held on Thursday, 18 May 2023 regarding the National Numeracy Day across the United Kingdom. As part of the preparation for the debate a pack

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was prepared on developments in England relating to Government policy on improving numeracy and mathematical skills. More detail can be found [here](#).

DfE Education Hub

The following topics have also been addressed on the DfE Education Hub, and further detail can be found by clicking the self-explanatory title of the blog post:

[School leaving age: Can you leave school at 16 and what are your options?](#)

[UCAS application deadlines 2023: When do I need to accept my university offer by?](#)

[NHS doctor apprenticeships: Everything you need to know](#)

[What are reasonable adjustments and how do they help disabled pupils at school?](#)

[Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know](#)

[What are academy schools and what is 'forced academisation'?](#)

[School funding: Everything you need to know](#)

What I've Learned About School Choice

This article shares experiences of a Christian mother and her husband in seeking the right educational option for their children and early on makes the comment "But if our school journey thus far has taught us anything, it's that we can research and plan, but the Lord establishes our steps (Prov. 16:9)." The author writes in a non-judgmental way as they note "We can ask the Lord to give us wisdom and then make a decision. And if our decision is different from another Christian family's, it doesn't mean one of us is right and the other is wrong."

The article may be of help and interest to parents considering the educational choice to be made on their responsibility for the education of their children. The article can be found [here](#).

Forthcoming events

Truth in Science – Summer School 2023

The 2023 Truth in Science Summer School is set for August 31-September 1 at Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire. The School is to inform sixth formers and undergraduates of the great issues facing them as they attend university, and to equip them to stay faithful to the Bible. There will be a number of experts to give talks, and there will be opportunity to ask questions, engage in discussion groups and speak one to one with experts in their field. For more details available [here](#).



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CViE National Conference, September 2023

Lord-willing, the Conference will be held on Saturday, September 23 from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the King's Centre, Coppard Gardens, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 2GZ.

We are very pleased to have arranged for 2 speakers:

- Roger Kiska, of Christian Concern, on the legal rights of parents in the educational context
- Steve Pearce, on a Christian attitude to technology, its impacts and opportunities

We extend a warm invitation to all those who have a concern and/or interest in the education of children and young people to join us at this year's CViE National Conference.

Finally ...

Please let us know if there are any topics that you feel should be covered in *Education Matters*. If you come across any issues at all that may be of interest to supporters of CViE, please let us know by emailing: enquiries@cvie.org.uk

We would acknowledge the Lord's goodness in providing for the work of CViE, and if you are able to contribute to our continued work please donate [here](#).

The Lord grant us a spirit of prayer, that He might help parents and those involved in education to hold fast to the Word of God and that He might watch over children and young people and keep them from the dangers that would corrupt them.

[NOTE: Although we make every effort to ensure these links mentioned are accurate, up to date and relevant, CViE cannot take responsibility for content and pages maintained by external providers, nor do we endorse all information, religious views or opinions posted on these third-party websites.]