

Schools Encouraged to Teach Sex at 13 as 'Normal'

British schools are being recommended a teaching resource suggesting that 'sex at 13' is normal, a Parliamentary committee has been told.

Appearing in front of the Education Select Committee on Tuesday, Sarah Carter of the **Family Education Trust**, pointed MPs to the "Traffic Light Tool" produced by "sexual health" group Brook, which features a booklet labeled *Supplementary Advice to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance* and produced by Brook, the PSHE Association and the Sex Education Forum.

The "**Traffic Light Tool**" suggests that "interest in erotica/pornography, sexually explicit conversations with peers and consenting oral and/or penetrative sex with others of the same or opposite gender who are of similar age and developmental ability" reflect "safe and healthy sexual development" and "provide opportunities to give positive feedback and additional information."

'Encouraging Illegal Activity'

Sarah Carter highlighted that the legal age of consent for sexual intercourse is 16 and suggested that the advice therefore encouraged illegal activity.

In response, the Committee's Chairman, Graham Stuart MP, suggested to the Chief Executive of the PSHE Association, Joe Hayman, "not to send out a message, that it's wrong, that it's harmful, it's dangerous, is in fact to almost collude with something which we know is damaging to young people."

When questioned more about Brook's "Traffic Light Tool," Hayman claimed that he could not be held accountable for every

link contained in its supplementary guidance but agreed to write to the Committee with further information.

Take Action to Protect Children

If you have children or grandchildren in school, why not find out how the school approaches Sex and Relationship Education, what is being taught and what resources are being used? Citizens of the United Kingdom have a statutory right to withdraw their children from SRE if they wish.