# Parents at Little Sutton Primary protest withdrawal of sexually explicit book from Year 2 reading



Concerns have escalated among parents at Little Sutton Primary School in Sutton Coldfield after it was revealed that a controversial book, "Mummy Laid an Egg!" by Babette Cole, was included in the reading materials for Year 2 pupils. This children’s book, aimed at explaining the facts of life, features cartoon-style illustrations that depict sexual positions in a manner some parents find inappropriate for children aged six. Discovery of the book was initially prompted by a concerned mother, whose revelations led to a broader outcry among guardians.

In light of the backlash, the headmaster of the school has withdrawn the book, following parents' claims that its content is decidedly graphic. Illustrations in the book show characters engaging in sexual acts on peculiar props such as skateboards and a bouncy hopper, a choice deemed both baffling and unsuitable by many outraged parents. One father, whose daughter is in Year 2, articulated his disgust, stating, “Even my ten-year-old daughter, I don't want her to be taught that. Telling six-year-olds how to have sex and make a baby?” He went on to express his frustration that many parents were unaware of what lessons would involve their children, highlighting a broader concern regarding the lack of communication about the educational content being presented.

This incident echoes a wider debate regarding sex education in UK primary schools. Recent conservative guidance suggests recommending against introducing sex education before Year 5, which has further inflamed opinions regarding young children's exposure to sexual content. This recommendation has not yet been formally implemented, leaving parents to interpret existing guidelines which are designed to allow them the option to withdraw their children from such lessons.

The book has previously sparked similar controversies outside of Sutton Coldfield. Reports indicate that a mother discovered "Mummy Laid an Egg!" in a doctor's waiting room and described it as a “child-friendly Kama Sutra guide,” generating an extensive discussion among parents on social media platforms about its appropriateness. The book has been critiqued by various groups, including the Christian Institute, which has labelled the illustrations as “obviously unsuitable” for children.

Despite its humorous approach to a sensitive subject, the manner in which the book illustrates various situations has raised questions about whether young children are developmentally ready for such content. Commentators have suggested that while some children may benefit from open discussions about reproduction, not all are equipped to process the materials presented in works like Cole's.

As this dialogue continues, the incident at Little Sutton Primary School serves as a stark reminder of the delicate balance educators and parents must navigate. Discussions about this type of content bring to light significant differences in cultural sensitivities and parental perspectives on education, especially concerning subjects as personal and complex as human sexuality.

In the wake of this incident, schools may re-evaluate their resource selections and communication strategies regarding sensitive topics, ensuring alignment with parental expectations and the developmental readiness of their pupils.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-3
2. Paragraph 4
3. Paragraphs 5-6
4. Paragraphs 7-8

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2056820/teacher-pulls-graphic-sex-education> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/mum-brands-kids-book-explaining-21636027> - A mother discovered the children's book 'Mummy Laid an Egg!' by Babette Cole in a doctor's waiting room. The book, intended to explain reproduction to children, contains illustrations of clowns demonstrating sexual positions, which the mother found inappropriate for young readers. She shared images of the book on Facebook, describing it as a 'child-friendly Kama Sutra guide,' leading to widespread discussion among parents about its suitability for children. The post garnered significant attention, with over 85,000 shares, highlighting the book's controversial content. ([mirror.co.uk](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/mum-brands-kids-book-explaining-21636027?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/mar/09/sex-education-criticised-christians?CMP=twt_iph> - The Christian Institute, an evangelical Christian pressure group, criticized the use of certain sex education materials in English primary schools, including the book 'Mummy Laid an Egg!' by Babette Cole. The group argued that the book's illustrations, depicting a man and woman having sex on a skateboard and wearing red noses, were 'obviously unsuitable' for children. This criticism sparked a debate over the appropriateness of explicit content in educational resources for young students. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/mar/09/sex-education-criticised-christians?CMP=twt_iph&utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.mummypages.co.uk/we-have-officially-found-the-funniest-sex-education-book-ever> - A mother shared her experience of finding the book 'Mummy Laid an Egg!' by Babette Cole in a doctor's waiting room. The book, intended to explain reproduction to children, includes humorous illustrations of sexual positions, which the mother described as a 'child-friendly Kama Sutra guide.' She expressed surprise at the book's content, noting that it took a 'very surprising twist' on page six, introducing 'Daddy's friendly-looking seed pods.' The post was widely shared, sparking discussions among parents about the book's appropriateness. ([mummypages.co.uk](https://www.mummypages.co.uk/we-have-officially-found-the-funniest-sex-education-book-ever?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/9319129/Ask-Lorna-sex-education-for-toddlers.html> - In response to a parent's inquiry about sex education books for a three-year-old, Lorna Bradbury recommended 'Mummy Laid an Egg!' by Babette Cole. The book presents the facts of life in an irreverent story, with illustrations depicting various sexual positions. Bradbury noted that while the book is entertaining, it may not be suitable for all children, and parents should consider their child's readiness and the book's content before introducing it. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/9319129/Ask-Lorna-sex-education-for-toddlers.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/rse-for-Y6-and-P7> - Coram Life Education, an organization focused on relationships and sex education, includes 'Mummy Laid an Egg!' by Babette Cole in their suggested reading list for 3-7 year-olds. The book is noted for its humorous approach to explaining reproduction, featuring illustrations of mummies and daddies 'fitting together' in various scenarios. While the book is intended to be light-hearted, some parents may find certain illustrations unsuitable for young children. ([coramlifeeducation.org.uk](https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/rse-for-Y6-and-P7?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/children-summer-special-taking-xfactor-out-sex-do-we-need-books-teach-children-about-sex-when-they-start-asking-tricky-questions-and-everyone-feels-embarrassed-unfront-approach-right-one-1494262.html> - An article in The Independent discusses the use of books like 'Mummy Laid an Egg!' by Babette Cole to teach children about sex. The book presents the facts of life in an irreverent story, with illustrations depicting various sexual positions. The article notes that while the book is entertaining, it may not be suitable for all children, and parents should consider their child's readiness and the book's content before introducing it. ([independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/children-s-summer-special-taking-the-xfactor-out-of-sex-do-we-need-books-to-teach-children-about-sex-when-they-start-asking-tricky-questions-and-everyone-feels-embarrassed-is-an-upfront-approach-the-right-one-1494262.html?utm_source=openai))