



21st May 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

You may remember that I contacted you earlier in the academic year to explain the school's approach to the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education.

We were overwhelmed by the response to this survey and appreciate that so many of you took the time to respond to it.

Having analysed all of the data, you voted overwhelmingly in favour of the teaching of SRE and understood the importance that it plays in our children's lives.

Using the school's PSHE programme, Jigsaw, the children will be taught a series of SRE lessons **over the next half term**. As a number of parents expressed an interest in the content of these lessons, an overview of the lessons has been attached to this letter. I have tried to explain exactly what your child will be taught and what specific vocabulary will be used. This will also enable you to talk about the lessons at home if your child comes home asking questions or is more curious about areas discussed.

Like Jigsaw, we believe that this work is vital to support children's development and to underpin their learning capacity, and that it is most effective when parents and carers work in partnership with the school.

DfE guidance clearly states the statutory requirements, i.e. what children **MUST** be taught by the end of primary school. Health Education includes learning about 'the changing adolescent body' to equip children to understand and cope with puberty.

The National Curriculum for Science (also a compulsory subject), includes learning the correct names for the main external body parts, learning about the human body as it grows from birth to old age and reproduction in some plants and animals (which could include human beings).

Relationships Education, Health Education and Science are compulsory subjects and parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from these subjects.

However, it is up to primary schools to determine what is meant by 'Sex Education' and if it is taught within PSHE/SRE, **parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn** from these specific lessons.

There are only 2 such lessons within our SRE curriculum:

lesson 2 in **Year 4** - Having a baby and lesson 4 in **Year 6** - Conception.

If your child is in either of these classes and you wish to withdraw them from those specific lessons, please contact the headteacher in writing (or via email). These are highlighted in red on the lesson overview grid.

The DfE does however recommend, 'that all primary schools should have a Sex Education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils.'

Although some of the content of these lessons may seem a little daunting and 'grown up', it is worth reminding you that each year group will be taught lessons that are appropriate to their age and developmental stage. **Please note: at no point will a child be taught something that is inappropriate;** and if a question from a child arises and the teacher feels it would be inappropriate to answer, (for example, because of its mature or explicit nature), the child will be encouraged to ask his/her parents or carers at home. The question will not be answered to the child or class if it is outside the remit of that year group's programme.

Why is this RSHE curriculum needed?

There are four main aims for teaching RSE within the context of Primary School PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education):

- More than ever before, children are exposed to representations of sex and sexuality through the social culture around them. The unregulated content on the internet or social media, can mean children may be exposed to dangerous, confusing or scary content. We can prepare them for this by presenting a balanced view of positive healthy relationships to help them to be discerning and to stay safe.
- There is much independent research showing most parents and carers value the support of schools in providing Relationship and Sex Education for their children. Parents and schools want children to be safe and happy.
- A range of independent research consistently shows that effective Relationship Education delays first sexual experience and reduces risk-taking in young people.
- Surveys of children and young people, as well as Ofsted, have repeatedly said that Relationship and Sex Education tends to be “too little, too late and too biological”.

These are some of the many reasons why the Department for Education is making Relationships and Health Education compulsory in primary schools from September 2020, with an emphasis on Relationships Education.

May I thank you for all of your support so far regarding this new legislation. If you have any further questions regarding these lessons or if you simply want to talk about any aspect of it, please do not hesitate to speak to me at school or to contact me via the office email address.

Kind Regards

Mrs K. Walker

Deputy Head / PSHE Lead