

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ON RSE

From 2020, Relationships Education and Health Education is statutory in all primary schools.

Sex Education remains a recommended part of the primary curriculum, but is not statutory. Therefore this is the only part of the curriculum from which you may withdraw your child.

In Primary Schools, Relationships Education will include learning about:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

Health Education will include learning about:

- Mental wellbeing
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid
- Changing adolescent body

Alongside these newly statutory areas of the curriculum, there is existing statutory content in the National Curriculum for Science.

WHAT ARE RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION?

- Relationships Education is a subject which must be taught in Primary schools from September 2020. It includes teaching on 'Families', 'Friendships', 'Respectful Relationships', 'Online Relationships' and 'Being Safe'.
- Health Education must be taught at primary from September 2020. It includes teaching on 'Mental Wellbeing', 'Internet Safety and Harms', 'Physical Health and Fitness', 'Healthy Eating', 'Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco', 'Health and Prevention', 'Basic First Aid' and 'Changing Adolescent Body'.

- We have been delivering much of this content for many years. There has been a duty for schools to promote pupils' wellbeing (Education Act 2006), to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society (National Curriculum 2014), to prepare children for life in modern Britain (National Curriculum 2014), to offer a broad and balanced curriculum (National Curriculum 2014) and to ensure that all pupils are treated equally (Equalities Act 2010).
- All schools must teach Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education.

WHY HAVE THESE SUBJECTS BEEN MADE STATUTORY?

- There have been calls for RSE for many years from a range of organisations: Women and Equalities committee, Education Select committee, NSPCC and reports on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (Manchester, Rotherham)
- There has been a nationwide concern about sexual abuse of children, child sexual exploitation (CSE), sexting, consent, pornography, self-harm, mental health and social media. These issues are addressed through RSE and Health Education.

The majority of parents support the teaching of RSE.

- Well taught RSE has the effect of:
 - raising the age of first sexual activity
 - making it more likely that abuse will be reported
 - making it less likely that young people describe their first sex as unwanted
 - reducing the likelihood that young people will contract a sexually transmitted infection (STI)
 - making it less likely that young people will have an unwanted pregnancy

WHAT HAS STAYED THE SAME WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION?

- Schools have always had a duty to communicate with parents about the content and delivery of RSE (RSE Guidance 2000). We have done this in Year 5 for many years.
- Parents/carers still have the right to ask that their child be excused from 'sex education'.
- There are still overlaps between the content of the Science Curriculum, RSE and Health Education.
- Schools have had to follow the Equalities Act since 2010.
- We still have to consider how we will respond sensitively to pupils' questions which go beyond the planned curriculum. With this in mind, we have developed a question box system, which allows pupils to write questions down

anonymously so teachers can check their appropriateness linked to the curriculum content. Any unanswered questions at the end of the session are said to be ones that the children need to ask their parents.

WHAT HAS CHANGED WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION?

- Areas of learning are now specified, previously coverage was up to the school.
- All schools must teach a well-planned, developmental RHE and RSHE curriculum. It is no longer optional.

WHAT HAPPENS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL?

- Every child has a right to feel accepted, valued and safe in school regardless of their gender, family background, religion, race or identity.
- We take steps to ensure that every child sees themselves and their families reflected in their school environment.
- We consider the needs of their pupils and ensure that the curriculum includes a progression of skills and ideas from Reception to Year 6.
- A child will usually receive their regular PSHE lessons from their class teacher who knows them and their families.
- We will teach about human sexual reproduction as part of 'sex education'. There are many overlaps with national curriculum for science which includes teaching about sexual reproduction in animals. Parents can ask their child be excused from teaching about human sexual reproduction at primary.
- Every child will be taught about their bodies and that they have the right to say what happens to their bodies as part of Relationships Education. This is to enable children to keep themselves safe from abuse and exploitation.
- Every child will be taught about how their body and brain will change as they got older as part of Health Education. They will get timely information about puberty and how to manage it.
- Every child will explore attitudes, stereotypes and behaviour to build self-awareness and confidence.
- Every child will explore how to ask trusted adults for help and how to be supportive to their peers.

WHAT WILL NOT HAPPEN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL?

- There is no teaching about sexual pleasure in primary school.
- There is no teaching about sexual practices, other than human sexual reproduction as part of 'sex education'.
- Teachers will not raise the profile of any family type, lifestyle, identity or sexuality over another.
- Children will not be asked to share information about their families in class situation unless they want to.

ARE FAITH PERSPECTIVES INCLUDED IN RSE?

- The views of different faiths (and groups within them) and cultural groups can be explored alongside medical facts/science and the law in our country.
- Pupils will learn to listen to and engage respectfully with people who hold different views to theirs’.
- The views of different faiths on matters pertaining to families, relationships and health are also discussed in other subjects such as Religious Education.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY CHILD?

- See newsletters, curriculum mapping and our RSE policy on the school website for information about the school curriculum and what your child will be learning.
- Support your child’s learning at home, by reading with them, asking their views on what they have learnt.
- Be the trusted adult who offers their child unconditional love and non-judgemental support, so they know they can always come to you if they have worries or concerns about friendships or relationships as they grow up.