

5th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a part of your child's educational experience we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives children and young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future. As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. All schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. The statutory guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-education-primary>

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, and safeguarding. Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities

Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered, and enable us to reach a general consensus.

Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would like your views on:

- Our policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- When and how certain content within this subject is covered.

What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content as schools are legally required to teach the National Curriculum and the statutory relationships programme. Parents and carers do have a right to withdraw their child from the sex education aspects of the programme which go beyond the biological concepts set out in the national curriculum. If you wish to explore this further you should contact the school.

We are currently in unprecedented times however as a school community, which makes it a little more challenging to consult with you. Accompanying this letter we have included an overview of the curriculum and a full copy of our policy, has been uploaded to our school website.

We will be starting the consultation process on 8th February and this will close on 22nd February. To respond to the consultation - which is an opportunity for you to express any views, you need to complete the google form which can be found at

<https://forms.gle/gH7CcJyDU3R6LoT89>

This is also an opportunity for you to identify any support you feel we could provide for parents and carers when talking to children at home about relationships and sex education.

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to the outcome of this process later this term. Once we have considered all the feedback, the draft updated Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be uploaded to the school's website which will also set out the curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs R Skirrow
Principal