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12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As a school we are committed to providing all pupils with a planned Personal, Social, Health, Education (PSHE) programme to enable them to acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and strategies they need to develop an understanding of themselves, empathy and the ability to work with others to help pupils form and maintain good relationships, develop the essential skills for future employability and better enjoy and manage their lives.

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools.

Sex education **is not compulsory** in primary schools. It is for primary schools to determine whether they need to cover any additional content on sex education to meet the needs of their pupils. However, the DfE continues to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils.

As part of the planned programme we teach pupils about, 'Me and My Relationships' which covers aspects of Relationships and Sex Education. This is taught in the **summer term** and the aim is to ensure pupils learn about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, healthy relationships and keeping themselves safe both on and offline:

- Year 1 being taught the names for different body parts which include the names for external genitalia.
- Year 1 / 2 / 3's are taught about what physical contact is acceptable or unacceptable. This is vital to support the work we do in keeping all pupils safe. Pupils need to have the language to describe the private parts of their body and learn that their body belongs to them, they have a right to say no, and that they should tell an adult if they're upset or worried. To support us in delivering this message to the pupils we use information from

Look and learn beyond the classroom ~ Aim high so everyone can shine ~  
Care, share and belong ~ Lead, teach and learn with passion.



the NSPCC Underwear Rule campaign. You can find out more at <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

- In Year 4 pupils start to learn that their body and emotions will change as they get older.
- In Year 5 pupils learn about all the external and internal genitalia and the ways in which children grow and develop in puberty both physically and emotionally.
- In Year 6 pupils further develop their understanding of the physical and emotional changes they go through at puberty and about human reproduction.

The following link is for the videos we would use to teach the above in Years 5 and 6.

[https://www.healthpromotion.ie/health/inner/busy\\_bodies](https://www.healthpromotion.ie/health/inner/busy_bodies)

Throughout all year groups pupils learn about, 'Different Families' which does include lesbian, gay and bisexual couples and there is also work on gender identity which includes information about trans children and young people.

Teaching staff approach this aspect of the curriculum very sensitively and are aware of how it contributes to pupils development supporting them to develop healthy relationships, keep themselves safe and having factually correct information and the skills to positively manage the physical and emotional changes that will happen as they grow into hopefully happy, confident and responsible teenagers.

Parents and carers also play a vital role in talking to your child(ren) about this important part of growing up and keeping themselves safe. To help you understand the type of questions children of different ages may ask and how to best respond to them further information can be obtained from the family planning association website – parent/carers section at

<http://www.fpa.org.uk/help-and-advice/advice-for-parents-carers>

Some aspects of this curriculum is delivered through the National Curriculum, Science and some through the PSHE curriculum.

Parents / carers do have the right to withdraw your child(ren) from the Sex Education curriculum but we would ask that you contact the Head Teacher to further discuss any questions you may have.

If you would like to see the schools Relationships and Sex education policy, any of the teaching resources or have any further questions about this aspect of the curriculum please can you contact the school office and I will get back to you. In usual times we would hold a parent workshop to share these resources, however our COVID policy does not currently allow this.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Mitchell