



Thursday 13th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

PSHRE (Personal, Social, Health and Relationships Education)

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has made changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. All schools are required to comply with the updated requirements. Due to COVID 19 schools have been able to delay the start of this until this term. The statutory guidance can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

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, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up gives 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.

Consequently, relationships, along with health education, is statutory, and form part of the National Curriculum.

The DfE continue 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. Where schools provide sex education at key stages 1 and 2, parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education but not from statutory relationships education, health education or what is taught in the science curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our curriculum and policy so we can be sure our provision is appropriate for our pupils.

As part of our curriculum and policy review we would appreciate your views on our draft policy for PSHRE (including sex education).

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.

The right to withdraw children from some lessons is explained within the policy.

Please click here to find the following documents/links:

- [Our proposed draft policy for PSHRE \(including sex education\)](#)
- [DfE guidance that outlines statutory requirements.](#)
- [A link to a consultation questionnaire](#)

If you choose to take part in this consultation, please complete the questionnaire by Thursday 27th May.

Many thanks

Mrs Essex

