

Dear Parents and Carers,

All primary schools are required to teach Relationships and Health Education to keep children healthy, happy and safe. Primary Schools are also required to have a Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) policy.

After last year's consultation on our Relationships, Sex and Health Education Procedure, we have made changes to our curriculum. Importantly, our curriculum now provides greater clarity around Sex Education. After reflecting on the views of parents who responded to the consultation we have made the decision to include Sex Education that goes beyond the statutory requirements of the RSHE and Science curriculum. By integrating Sex Education with PSHE, we are able to address not only the biological but also the emotional and personal aspects of this important topic. We believe that age-appropriate knowledge empowers and protects children and have chosen to teach sex education that is line with the Department for Education guidance but goes beyond the statutory guidance.

We have an obligation to teach children from Year 1 to Year 6 about aspects of RSHE and feel it is important that as a school we are clear about what that entails. The mention of the words, 'Sex education' can create unnecessary anxiety for parents and carers and I want to reassure you that the focus of much RSHE in primary school is broader than you might think, focussing more so on the Relationships and Health rather than the Sex aspect.

Throughout the year we cover different aspects of the JIGSAW curriculum through six broad topics- Being me in my World, Celebrating Difference (autumn term) Dreams & Goals, Healthy Me (spring term) Relationships and Changing Me (summer term) A single lesson as part of the 'Changing Me' topic in Term 6 for years 4, 5 and 6 covers all of the Sex Education aspects

As a parent or carer you do have the right to request your child is removed from parts of the sex education programme, but we feel confident that the content is both relevant and appropriate for our age group. It is important to clarify that withdrawal of your child would only be considered only for content that is not part of the statutory science or RSE curriculum.

To help you understand what will be taught a concise overview of content by year group (RSE Appendix) has been uploaded to the school website, along with Government guidance and Jigsaw leaflets outlining further detail.

We have also created a Microsoft Forms questionnaire which we would ask that you spend a few minutes completing. The survey will be open until Friday 13th January. You can find it here: <https://forms.office.com/e/8d1D3zcEN1>

This will help us to gain your thoughts and opinions of this new content and review our approach to the teaching of RSHE following this period of consultation.

Kind regards,

Bern Langton