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# RSE Curriculum Consultation

May 2021



## Aims:

- To inform parents about the new statutory RSE curriculum requirements.
- To gain views and opinions to inform school's Relationship and Sex Education Policy.



# Changes

- ▶ A new curriculum for relationships and sex education is mandatory from September 2021.
- ▶ Primary schools must teach relationships education and health education, including education on mental wellbeing.
- ▶ Primary schools are not required to teach sex education.



# Context

- ▶ The aim of RSE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship.
- ▶ It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviours in relationships.
- ▶ Pupils will understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed.
- ▶ It is taught through a spiral curriculum which offers rich opportunities for learning about the application of British Values and the enhancement of pupil's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education.
- ▶ At Yattendon, we have been delivering Relationships and Sex Education within our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum for many years. We have reviewed our PSHE curriculum to make sure that our lessons meet the requirements that the government has set out for the content of Relationships and Health Education.
- ▶ We have also updated our Relationships and Sex Education policy to reflect the new statutory status for Relationships Education, and we are inviting parents to consider this policy before it is finalised.



# Extract from DFE Statutory Guidance

- ▶ To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.
- ▶ High quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects can help prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. They can also enable schools to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, at school and in society. The duties on schools in this area are set out in legislation.



- ▶ 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. Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) continues to be compulsory in independent schools.
- ▶ This guidance also sets out both the rights of parents/carers to withdraw pupils from sex education (but not Relationships or Health Education) and the process that head teachers should follow in considering a request from a parent. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.
- ▶ Schools are free to determine how to deliver the content set out in this guidance, in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum. Effective teaching in these subjects will ensure that core knowledge is broken down into units of manageable size and communicated clearly to pupils, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned programme or lessons. Teaching will include sufficient well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to embed new knowledge so that it can be used confidently in real life situations.



- ▶ In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of all pupils must be taken into account when planning teaching, so that the topics that are included in the core content in this guidance are appropriately handled. Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, under which religion or belief are amongst the protected characteristics.
- ▶ Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education must be accessible for all pupils. This is particularly important when planning teaching for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities who represent a large minority of pupils. High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will be the starting point to ensure accessibility.
- ▶ In teaching Relationships Education and RSE, schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, (please see The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice), under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics.



# Parental Right To Withdraw Pupils from RSE

- ▶ Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Parents should put a request in writing to the Head Teacher.
- ▶ You cannot withdraw from the 'Relationships' education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe.
- ▶ The content of the Science curriculum also includes lessons involving human development and reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.



# Science Curriculum

- ▶ Parents may not withdraw pupils from science lessons on reproduction which form part of the statutory National Curriculum.
- ▶ In Upper KS2 (Y5/6) - Pupils should be taught to describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird and describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. Pupils should find out about different types of reproduction, including sexual and asexual reproduction in plants, and sexual reproduction in animals. They might observe changes in an animal over a period of time, comparing how different animals reproduce and grow.
- ▶ Pupils should be taught to describe the changes as humans develop to old age. Pupils should draw a timeline to indicate stages in the growth and development of humans. They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty. Pupils could work scientifically by researching the gestation periods of other animals and comparing them with humans; by finding out and recording the length and mass of a baby as it grows.



# RSE in Primary Schools

- ▶ Areas covered alongside Personal, Health, Social, Citizenship Education include :
- ▶ Families and People Who Care For Me
- ▶ Caring Friendships
- ▶ Respectful Relationships
- ▶ Online Relationships
- ▶ Being Safe - including the concept of personal privacy



# Purpose of Consultation

- ▶ As a school, we would always want to deliver a curriculum which has the support of the vast majority, if not all, parents.
- ▶ We believe that children will accept information which is given to them in small chunks over time and at an age appropriate level more easily than information which is 'kept secret' until they are in Year 6.
- ▶ We recognise that children need an increasing level of skill to deal with the modern world and the impact of social networking, advertising and media. Schools and parents have a responsibility to give a positive message which builds children's resilience to the negative messages they may encounter through the easy availability of pornography / photo-shopped body images / TV programmes such as Love Island which portray sex as separate from relationships.
- ▶ We would want all pupils to grow with the knowledge of natural changes before they happen, and pupils can encounter puberty at a relatively young age. For example, while the average age for a girl to begin menstruation in the UK is 12, many begin in Year 6 and some in Year 5. Less commonly, girls can begin their periods from 8 years old.

