



29th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our PSHE & RSE Programme in Key Stage one and Key Stage two

We believe that promoting the health and well-being of our pupils is an important part of their overall education. We do this through our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. This looks at many topics including all kinds of relationships, physical / emotional health and living in the wider world. The aim of the PSHE curriculum is to help our pupils make safe and informed decisions during their school years and beyond.

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is an important part of the PSHE course. We will be teaching lessons about RSE which will include topics such as (*puberty; relationships and communication skills; pregnancy; social media*) During the lessons, pupils will be able to ask questions, which will be answered factually and in an age appropriate manner. Each pupil's privacy will be respected, and no one will be asked to reveal personal information.

Some parts of RSE are compulsory - these are part of the National Curriculum for Science. Parents can withdraw their children from some or all of sex education within RSE if they wish to do so. However, we believe that children's exposure to sexual images in social and other media make it important that all young people have a place to discuss pressures, check facts and dispel myths. Even if a child is withdrawn, many pupils will discuss such issues with each other outside the classroom – so, rather than hear about the content second-hand, we hope all children will have the opportunity to take part in our carefully planned lessons.

Many parents and parent-related organisations support good quality RSE in school. Parents are the most important educators of young people in personal issues and many welcome the support that school can offer to supplement their home teaching.

You may find that your child starts asking questions about the topic at home, or you might want to take the opportunity to talk to your child about issues before the work is covered in school. If you have any queries about the content of the programme or resources used, please do not hesitate in contacting me at school. All materials used are available for you to browse through should you so wish.

Yours sincerely,

Esther Logue & Emma Crowther

Joint headteachers

Relationships and Sex Education – Frequently Asked Questions

What are the aims of RSE in our school?

Depending on the age of the children and the lessons in their particular year group, we want RSE to:

- *Develop the confidence to talk, listen and think about their feelings and relationships*
- *Develop friendship/relationship skills*
- *Develop positive attitudes, values and self esteem*
- *Provide knowledge and understanding about puberty and the changes that will take place*
- *Provide knowledge and understanding about reproduction and sexuality*
- *Address concerns and correct misunderstanding that children may have gained from the media and peers*
- *Develop skills to help children protect themselves against unwanted sexual experience*
- *Know where and how to seek help*

Can you explain the school's RSE Morals and Values Framework?

RSE follows the school's agreed aims, values and moral framework which is sensitive to the needs and beliefs of pupils, parents /carers and other members of the school community. RSE will be delivered within the school's agreed equal opportunities framework.

RSE will support the importance of marriage or stable relationships, for family life and bringing up children. Care is taken to ensure there is no stigmatisation of children based on their different home circumstances.

Pupils will be encouraged to understand that thinking about morals and values also includes:

- *Respect for self and others*
- *Commitment, trust and love within relationships*
- *Understanding diversity regarding religion, culture and sexual orientation*
- *Honesty with self and others*
- *Self-awareness*
- *Exploration of rights, duties and responsibilities*

Misunderstandings about RSE

There is sometimes concern that RSE in school might promote sexual activity or cause confusion about an individual's sexuality. The research on quality RSE points to a more positive outlook: 87 programmes from many countries were examined by UNESCO in 2009. This led to the conclusion that if RSE has an effect it is a positive one: *“sexuality education can lead to later and more responsible sexual behaviour or may have no discernible impact on sexual behaviour”*.

In the UK the research is even more positive. Analysis by the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles team over several years consistently shows that men and women who said that lessons at school were their main source of information about sex were more likely to have started having sex at a later age than those for whom parents or other sources were their main source. Schools have an important role to play in RSE.