

29th March 2021



Learning God's Way

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week we introduced the new Relationships and Sex Education curriculum which has been brought in by the government. This content is not new to our school as we have been teaching it for the last few years (though PSHE and Circle Time lessons) but now it is a compulsory part of your child's Primary Education. These lessons cover the statutory requirements and have been carefully planned to be age appropriate. They also give the opportunity for children to revisit topics in different year groups. This is important as they will learn more and see things differently as they mature.

The lessons are divided up into three overarching themes:

- **Families and relationships**
- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Safety and the changing body**

Below is a summary of some of the areas covered within each theme:

<u>Families and relationships</u>	<u>Health and wellbeing</u>	<u>Safety and the changing body</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to form and maintain friendships• Importance of family• Different types of families• Dealing with problems in friendships• Online relationships, including staying safe• Stereotyping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health and wellbeing• Healthy eating• Physical activity• Dental health• Importance of sleep• Medicines• Tobacco• Alcohol• First aid Safety and the changing body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online safety• Safety around adults• Understanding their body• Physical changes during puberty• Emotional changes during puberty• Asking for help when needed

The lessons will give children the opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of the topic. They will also be able to explore their feelings and ideas about topics and listen to the views of other people. The overall aim is for children to be able to make their informed choices and decisions. We will continue to inform the parents before we start teaching about puberty and sex education and invite parents to view the materials which we will be using to teach it.

Will my child have to take part?

All the content outlined above is statutory and therefore all children should be taught it. As with any other subject teachers will ensure that the lesson is taught in a way which means children of all abilities will learn. The government is very clear that they want children with special educational needs (SEN) to be included in these lessons. As a parent you do not have the right to withdraw your child from any of the statutory content on either relationships or health. You only have the right to withdraw your child from the sex education content that we choose to teach, apart from National Curriculum Science. It is recommended that you talk to us about this before making a decision. We will

inform you before we teach our sex education lessons which occur in Year 6. Parents and carers are sometimes concerned about the conversations children may have in RSHE lessons, but teachers have lots of ways to make sure children are safe in these lessons. For example, they will have ground rules to make sure children feel confident to share their ideas, they will use things like puppets and stories, so children are discussing a made up characters' experiences rather than their own. They also know the children in their class well and will have a sense of their needs and what they teach will be age appropriate. It is important to balance what children know already and to prepare them for the future. Discussing issues in the safe learning environment of the classroom before they experience them in real life is very valuable for children. We will be very happy to share more information with you on how they approach these topics.

The new RSE curriculum is one of the issues we will be discussing at our online parent forum on **Tuesday 30th March at 7pm**. The meeting will cover: what the new regulations are, views on our new RSE policy, an overview of what is taught in which year groups and a sample of some of the resources that we will be using in our lessons. Our new RSE policy is available for you to view on our school website. The RSE end of Primary expectations as set by the Department for Education can be found at the end of our school RSE policy.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Bray
PSHE Leader