

# Parent Consultation on Relationships and Sex Education

April 2021



# Our RSHE Curriculum Common Principles



- We all want what is best for children.
- We want to protect children and to keep them safe.
- We want children to be healthy and happy.

**High quality RSE is part of this.**

# Parent Consultation Session Content



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# Why is the curriculum changing....



- Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a new legislation on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education in Schools.
- Safeguarding Children is at the heart of Relationships and Sex Education.

# Why is Relationship, Sex and Health Education in schools important?



- High quality RSHE helps create safe school communities in which students can grow, learn, and develop positive, healthy behaviour for life, and for the following reasons:
- RSHE plays a vital part in schools fulfilling their statutory duties to protect and safeguard their students. Ofsted is clear that schools must have a preventative programme that enables students to learn about safety and risks in relationships.
- Schools maintain a statutory obligation under the Children Act (2004) to promote their students' wellbeing and under the Education Act (2002) to prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. A comprehensive RSHE programme can have a positive impact on students' health and wellbeing and their ability to achieve, and can play a crucial part in meeting these obligations.
- Technology is evolving at a tremendous pace. The need to protect children and young people from inappropriate online content, cyber bullying and exploitation is a growing concern. A comprehensive RSHE programme can support in addressing these issues.

# Relationship, Sex and Health Education: Introduction



- **Relationships education will be compulsory for all primary age pupils from September 2020. (Following the school closures, schools have until September 2021 to comply)**
- **Relationships and Sex education (RSE) will be compulsory for all Secondary age pupils**
- **Health education will be compulsory for all pupils in all state funded schools.**
- Teaching at school will complement **(NOT REPLACE)** and reinforce the lessons families teach their children as they grow up.
- At Hemblington, we aim to flexibly and inclusively deliver any content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of pupils and parents while always with the aim of providing pupils with the knowledge they need of the law.

# Relationships Education in Primary Schools



- Relationships Education is introduced at primary school and students explore the following areas:
  - **Families and people who care for me**
  - **Caring Friendships**
  - **Respectful Relationships**
  - **Online Relationships**
  - **Being Safe**
  - ***Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools.*** Primary schools that choose to teach sex education should tailor teaching to take account of the age and the physical maturity of their pupils and must allow parents to withdraw their children where requested.

# Physical Health and Mental Well Being in Primary Schools



- The aim of teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing is to give them information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing with a clear focus on reducing stigma attached to health issues.
- In primary school the focus should be on teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing and the benefits of hobbies, interests and participation in their own communities. By embedding these principles teachers should be able to address issues such as isolation, loneliness, unhappiness, bullying and the negative impacts of poor health and wellbeing.
- Physical Health and Mental Well Being Teaching in Primary include learning units around **Mental Wellbeing, Internet Safety and Harms, Physical Health and Fitness, Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco/Basic First Aid/Changing Adolescent Body**)

# Overview of Teaching Expectations in Primary School



Relationships Education	Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing
Families and People who care for me	Mental Well Being
Caring Friendships	Internet Safety and Harms
Respectful Relationships	Physical Health and Fitness
Online Relationships	Healthy Eating
Being Safe	Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
	Health and Prevention
	Basic First Aid
	Changing Adolescent Body

# Sex Education in Primary School



The DfE recommend that sex education is covered in upper key stage 2 of primary school. In Year 5 Science, pupils learn about changes to humans as they develop to old age, this work includes changes experienced at puberty. They are taught about reproduction of mammals. This Science work is compulsory and children can not be withdrawn from these lessons. 'How babies are made' will be taught following this Science unit in Year 5 and 'How babies are born' will be taught in Year 6. You can withdraw your children from these lessons.

This [guide](#) outlines your rights as parents.

# RSHE Policy



- A draft RSHE Policy has been developed to reflect current statutory guidance including RSHE curriculum offer.

**Hemblington  
Primary  
School**



**Relationships Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy**

**DRAFT**



# Frequently Asked Questions



# Will my child's school have to engage with me before teaching these subjects?

- Schools will be required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered.
- Effective consultation gives the space and time for parents to input, ask questions, share concerns and for the school to decide the way forward. Schools will listen to parent's views, and then make a reasonable decision as to how they wish to proceed. What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content. (UK Gov)

# Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?



- From September 2020 in Primary Education parents will be able to withdraw their children from any aspects of Sex Education other than those which are part of the Science Curriculum (Note that Sex Education is not compulsory in Primary Schools).
- Parents will continue to have a right to request to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools (other than those which are part of the Science Curriculum), which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, should be granted **up to three terms before their child turns 16**. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16- the legal age of sexual consent.
- There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education at Primary or Secondary as we believe that the contents of these subjects- such as family, friendships, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

# Does the new Relationships Education and RSE Curriculum take account of my faith?



- The DfE states that Relationships Education has been designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain – this means taking into account the religious background of pupils when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled.
- In developing these subjects, the government has worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England. Several faith organisations produce teaching materials that schools can choose to use.
- The subjects are designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.

# Will my child be taught about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender relationships?



- We believe that all pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. Relationships Education is designed to foster respect for others and for difference and educate pupils about healthy relationships. We also believe that children should receive teaching on LGBT content during their school years. Teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist is very important.
- \*The DfE states that Primary schools are strongly encouraged and enabled to cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families.
- Secondary Schools should cover LGBT content in their RSE teaching. RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity-this should include age appropriate and developmentally appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law.

Thank you for listening.



Please take this opportunity  
to ask any questions you  
may have.