

Dear Parents and Carers,

The teaching of the [new](#) RSHE curriculum (relationships, sex and health education) would have become a statutory requirement as of September 2020, but due to COVID 19, the government has revised this date to March 2021. As an outstanding school, we already had a RHSE curriculum in place, however this needed to be revised to incorporate the additional elements in the new curriculum. Wickhambreaux CEP School has always sought to promote personal wellbeing and development giving children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy productive lives and meet their full potential.

As part of the introduction to the new RHSE curriculum, we are inviting parents to express their views on the content of the curriculum. It is important to note that although we consider and value your views, we are not able to change any of the statutory teaching requirements. Please refer to the link below for more information.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907638/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

Also, please view the draft RHSE Policy which has been attached to the ParentMail as a PDF. This can also be found on the school website.

<https://www.wickhambreaux.kent.sch.uk/>

This consultation was due to happen in the Summer term 2020 but needed to be postponed due to the current pandemic. In the past we have offered face to face meetings, however, due to the current restrictions, we have had to rethink how we consult with parents on this matter. Therefore, we have produced a short video and PowerPoint for you to view.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, our RSHE curriculum celebrates differences and promotes inclusion, respect and tolerance of people from all backgrounds and those of protected characteristics. This means that we will discuss all types of family unit, inclusive of: heterosexual parents, single and step parents, homosexual parents and guardians. This does not mean we will discuss specific details of these relationships, we will simply approach them in the context of respecting and accepting love in all forms. (see attached leaflet).

The Diocese has also provided materials and documents relating to this and fully support the implementation of the current statutory curriculum.

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/Valuing%20All%20God%27s%20Children%20July%202019_0.pdf

Communication is key between parents and teachers for the RSHE curriculum, particularly for sex education. You do not have the right to withdraw your child from any of the statutory teaching on relationships, however we will communicate with you, when topics that may raise questions at home are due to be taught. You have the right to withdraw your child from 'sex education' on topics which are not covered in the science curriculum. Parental leaflets, published by Jigsaw PHSE, explaining this are again attached.

The National Curriculum for science has aspects of reproduction and puberty, this is covered during the biology units in the spring terms. We have a 4-year rolling curriculum for science where KS2 are taught the same materials but the depth of knowledge varies depending on the year group of the pupils.

The statements in the science curriculum that include aspects of sex education are as follows:

“Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.”

“Describe the changes as humans develop to old age.”

“Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.”

These are taught from a scientific point of view and correct terminology (penis, vagina, testicles etc) is used throughout. This is important, not only for their scientific knowledge, but also for safeguarding (NSPCC guidance). Anatomically correct vocabulary along with education of the body's natural processes normalises discussions that have previously been considered “embarrassing” or “taboo”.

Details of the specific content that is taught in science can be found below:

Years 3&4 – children will be taught that offspring are a mixture of parental DNA (ovum and sperm) and these combine to develop a baby in the mother's womb*. The development of the baby will be studied and the changes from baby to adult to old age.

*sexual intercourse is not taught at this level.

Years 5&6 – in addition to what is taught in years 3&4, years 5&6 are taught where sperm comes from and the external and internal changes during puberty.

These science lessons will provide a scaffold for the relationships and sex education which we timetable in the Summer term. We use materials from the BBC website and our ‘Jigsaw’ programme as required, depending on the cohort. We will inform and share the sex education materials prior to delivery to enable you to make an informed choice about your child/children's participation in the sex education element of the curriculum. This is particularly relevant for those children in Year 5 & 6 where more detailed information is taught.

Parents are invited to share their views using the comment box below. If you have any questions please include these in your comments.

Kind regards,

L Crosbie (AHT), K Bremner (RSHE Coordinator), H Barnes (Science Coordinator), H Abbott (Chair of Governors)