

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy Parental Consultation**

As a part of your child's educational experience at Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives children and young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes will come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. The statutory guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

Consequently, from September 2020 Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education will be statutory and form part of the National Curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our PSHE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities

Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered, and enable us to reach a general consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would your views on:

- Our draft policy for Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE)
- When and how certain content within this subject is covered.

The deadline for parental feedback is Friday 14th May 2021.

What is taught and how is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content as schools are legally required to teach the National Curriculum. The right to withdraw children from Sex Education lessons is explained in the draft Policy which accompanies this letter. As this is in Year 6 we will provide an opportunity in the near future to view lesson materials so you are able to make an informed decision.

We are currently in unprecedented times however as a school community which makes it a little more challenging to consult with you. To help you understand the curriculum requirements I have attached the information below alongside this letter and can also be found on our website which I would encourage you to read. This includes:

- our proposed draft RSE Policy,
- DfE guidance that outlines statutory requirements as part of parent consultation on google slides
- a questionnaire via Google forms

(<https://forms.gle/mEh6eB54jFQqBrH48>)

Your views are especially important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process later this term. Once we have considered all the feedback the draft updated Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy will be uploaded to the school's website which will also set out the proposed curriculum.

I hope this letter and attached information goes some way to alleviate any worries you may have. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Evans