

Date:

Dear Parent or Carer,

The Department for Education has announced changes to the relationships and sex education curriculum (RSE) and Health education. These changes came into effect from September 2020 and all schools are required to comply with the updated requirements. This will enhance the Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) that schools provide.

Due to the limitations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the interruptions to schools we are behind in meeting these requirements and therefore addressing them now. This means that schools across Redcar & Cleveland will be reviewing their RSE curriculum and policy so they can be sure it is appropriate for their students. Students will be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others, accept diversity and educate pupils about healthy relationships.

What is Relationships and Sex Education?

The Governments definition is:

“It is a lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual activity.” (Department for Education and Employment, SRE guidance, 2000)

All schools must have a Relationships and Sex Education policy. Our policy will be available on the school’s website. This will outline the curriculum that will be taught in each year group.

The Government guidance says that by the end of primary school, it is mandatory for pupils to have been taught content on:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe
- Mental wellbeing
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid
- The changing adolescent body

For Primary aged pupils, parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from Relationships Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe.

By the end of secondary school schools should continue to develop knowledge on topics specified for primary as required and in addition cover the following content by the end of secondary:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health
- The Law

Parents and carers have a right to withdraw their child from Sex Education (secondary school only)

Relationships Education is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe. Parents and carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. However, before granting any such request the Principal should discuss the request with parents. Once those discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, the school should respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, then the school will make arrangements. The relationships and health education remain statutory elements of the curriculum.

What to do if you want to know more about SRE

If you would like to know more about what will be taught as part of the updated curriculum, the best thing to do is speak to us at school. The government has also published some helpful guides, which explains what the subject is about and parents' rights:

For more information please follow the link to guidance provided by the government which explains in more detail the changes:

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812593/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812594/RSE_secondary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

In preparation for the new statutory requirements we would like to consult with you, so that you can express your views, ask any questions and to let us know if you have any concerns with the new requirements. Your views will help us shape the policy and influence how we deliver relationships, sex and health education topics throughout the school.

It would be much appreciated if you could help us by answering the following questions and return to school. (Please return one of the attached raffle tickets to be included in the prize draw!)

Q1: Referring to the policy, do you agree with the aims of the school relationship and sex education and health education (RSE)?

Yes

No

If you selected 'No', can you explain why?

Do you have any further comments regarding the school aims?

Q2: Do you have any comments or concerns about the topics that the school plans to discuss in Relationship and Sex education?

Q3: Do you have any comments or concerns about the topics that the school plan to discuss in Health education?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this consultation form.

If you have any other comments you would like to make at this time about the new statutory requirements for RSHE please enter them below. You can also leave your contact details if you would like a member of staff to contact you. Thank you for your help – it is much appreciated!