

Parent Consultation on Relationship and Sex Education





Why is the Curriculum Changing?

We want all children to grow up healthy, happy and safe and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, from September 2021, all primary age children will be taught Relationships and Health Education.

These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for successful adult life. The world for all young people looks very different from the way it did 20 years ago when this curriculum was last updated – these changes bring the content into the 21st century – so that it is relevant to your child.



What Does the New Statutory Guidance Cover?

Relationships Education

The focus of Relationships Education is on teaching building blocks and characteristic of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships and relationships with other children and adults. Department for Education guidance requires us to teach objectives under the following topics:

- Families and People who Care for Me
- Caring Friendships
- Respectful Relationships
- Online Relationships
- Being Safe

You cannot withdraw your child from Relationships Education because it's important that all children receive this content.



Science Curriculum

As part of the Science curriculum we teach the following statutory objectives that build understanding about growth and reproduction:

Key Stage 1 (age 5-7 years)

Year 1 pupils should be taught to:

- Identify, name and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense

Year 2 pupils should be taught to:

- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food and hygiene

Science Curriculum



Key Stage 2 (age 7-11 years)

Year 5 pupils should be taught to:

- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals
- Describe the changes as humans develop to old age

Year 6 pupils should be taught to:

- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents
- Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way that bodies function



What are the Recommendations for Schools?

- Introduce children to the correct scientific terms to describe body parts in Key Stage 1
- Challenge the use of the word 'gay' as an insult and include work around the makeup of different families
- Begin to explore puberty changes by the age 8/9
- Deliver RSE in a progressive way across the school
- Ensure that children in Year 5 and 6 receive RSE input around puberty so that they are prepared as soon as possible for the onset of puberty.



Why is Relationships and Sex Education Important?

Safeguarding children is at the heart of Relationships and Sex Education. Children need to know how to protect themselves from:

- Grooming and Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Unwanted conceptions
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Sexting
- Online pornography
- Puberty is starting earlier – for some children, by the age of 8



The Aims of RSE at Hollywell



Through RSE many of our key values are supported, such as:

- Respect for self and others
- Building positive caring relationships
- Respecting diversity
- Feeling safe and valued
- Self awareness and self esteem
- Exploration of rights, duties and responsibilities





Resources

The alternative version of 'Living and Growing' produced for Channel 4 is used to support sex education within school. This DVD can be viewed by parents in school prior to your children.

Most RSE lessons take place during the final half term of the year (June and July) and will be taught by the class teachers.

Parents will be informed about these sessions before they take place.



Can I Withdraw my Child from RSE?

- Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from Sex Education outside of the Science curriculum. The only sex education content outside of the science curriculum is in Year 6.
- Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from lessons on Relationships or Health Education or the Science Curriculum.
- If a parent or carer wishes to withdraw their child from Sex Education in Year 6, we ask that they discuss it with the Year 6 class teacher in the first instance. A request to withdraw a child from these lessons must be put in writing to the Headteacher following this meeting. This is rarely the case and we hope that you will see the value these sessions will provide to your child's understanding, safety and development.
- Parents, carers and staff should be aware that pupils who are withdrawn from RSE will have questions about why this has happened. It should also be understood that pupils may ask their peers about lesson content.



Next Steps:

- Please look at the materials on the school website and complete our survey. We are particularly interested in your views and any areas you might like further support with at home.
- We are aware that there will be differences of opinion, but we will take your views into account when we finalise our policy and curriculum plan. We will share this with you later in the summer term.

2023 Update: This survey is now closed but please take the time to view the results of the Parent RSE Consultation below.