

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to share further information with you on a change in curriculum provision; we now have **a statutory duty to share our statement of policy on our provision of Relationships Education and Health Education before the end of the academic year.**

We would therefore like to give you a background on legislation and then detail our school approach.

Background

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, **make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education** and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. They also **make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools.**

We have received statutory guidance from the Department of Education which contains information on what schools should do and confirms the legal duties with which schools must comply when teaching Relationships Education, Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. It states that schools are free to determine how to deliver the content set out in this guidance.

How will we teach Relationships Education and Health Education?

We fortunately have already rolled out an excellent PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) programme (**Jigsaw**) and can confirm that this meets all the new statutory requirements for Relationships and Health Education. However, to ensure adherence, we are using a useful mapping document that cross-references new objectives with Jigsaw content.

What must we share with parents/carers?

We must have in place a written policy for Relationships Education; we must define Relationships Education, set out the subject content and explain how it is taught and who is responsible for teaching it. We must describe how the subject is monitored and evaluated and include information why parents do not have a right to withdraw their child.

We must consult with parents in developing and reviewing our policy so that it meets the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community that we serve.

Is there any Sex Education guidance for Primary schools?

Sex Education is not compulsory in Primary schools – the focus is purely on relationships. However, we would like to remind parents that the national curriculum for science at KS2 includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. Primary schools are allowed to determine if they will cover any additional content on sex education to meet the needs of their pupils – like most schools, the Governing body of South Petherton Junior School has agreed to teach some aspects in Year 6. We would like to confirm that we will continue to do this; we believe that we have an important role in supporting transition to secondary school as we need to support pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. Our policy will therefore confirm what is being taught and how parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn if required.

How will parents/carers understand the new legislation?

We will share our new school policy on Relationships and Health Education – this will include our approach to non-mandatory sex education. We will share the statutory requirements by the end of Primary school and explain how our PSHE programme, Jigsaw, supports us from Year 3 to Year 6.

How will parents/carers offer feedback?

We are eager to hear parent/carer views and will state clear methods of communication. Following a clear deadline, we will then confirm policy and share via our school website.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Best Wishes,
Catherine Walker
Head Teacher
South Petherton Junior School.