

**29** 

## **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

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**Approval Date: 28 September 2021** 

**Review Period:** Annually

Review Date: September 2022

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Date Created/updated: May 2021

Version Number: 1

### **Contents:**

1.	Introduction	3			
2.	Policy Intent	3			
3.	What Is Relationship and Sex Education?	3			
4.	Statutory Expectations	3			
5.	Policy Consultation	3			
6.	Aims and Objectives for Relationship and Sex Education	4			
7.	Sex Education	5			
8.	Parents' right to withdraw	5			
9.	The organisation of Relationship and Sex Education	5			
10.	The Role of Visitors in regards to RSE	6			
11.	1. SEND Pupils and Vulnerable groups				
12.	Safeguarding Children	6			
13.	3. Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation				
14.	Controversial and Sensitive Issues	7			
15.	Dealing with Difficult Questions	7			
16.	Monitoring & Evaluation	7			
Арр	endix 1: Additional guidance for supporting children	8-9			
Арр	11-13				
Арр	14				
Арр	endix 4: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE	15			
Appendix 5: RSE letter for parents					

#### 1. Introduction

As an academy group we have four clear drivers. Excellence, Belonging, Opportunity, Respect.

Excellence – We work to inspire and instil in others the desire to be the best we can.

Belonging – To work together as a community, having a unique and valued part to play within our academy alliance.

Opportunity – To give, and be given, the opportunities to grow, flourish, and celebrate success. Respect – To value, respect and care for others and ourselves.

#### 2. Policy Intent

Our intention is that when children leave Tockwith CE Primary Academy, they will do so with the knowledge, understanding and emotions to be able to play an active, positive and successful role in today's diverse society. We aim to follow the Church of England's *Charter for faith sensitive and inclusive relationships education relationships and sex education*. We want our children to have high aspirations, a belief in themselves and realise that anything is possible if they live their life in all its fullness. In an everchanging world, it is important that they are aware, to an appropriate level, of different factors which will affect their world and that they learn how to deal with these so that they have good mental health and well-being.

Our Relationships and Sex Education offer enables our children to learn how to be safe, and to understand and develop healthy relationships, both now and in their future lives. They will develop learning that results in the progressive acquisition of knowledge and skills which will enable children to access the wider curriculum and prepare them to be a model citizen in modern day Britain within a global community now and in their future. It promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils that will prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences for later life.

#### 3. What Is Relationship and Sex Education?

Sex and Relationship Education is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

#### 4. Statutory Expectations

Relationships and Health Education is compulsory in Primary Schools. We must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the <u>Children and Social work act 2017.</u>

For Primary Schools – Sex education is not mandatory although they must teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. The National Curriculum for Science includes content about human body parts, growth, puberty and reproduction. Parents do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum. Primary Schools can decide to teach some aspect of Sex Education if they should deem it to be important in their context.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to the statutory guidance from the DfE <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education">health-education</a> issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the <a href="Education Act 1996">Education Act 1996</a>. The new curriculum will be compulsory from September 2020. Schools should start teaching from that date if they meet the statutory requirements. If they are not ready, or are unable to meet the requirements, they should begin teaching by at least the start of the summer term 2021.

Schools are required to comply with relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Further guidance is available for schools in The Equality Act 2010 and schools advice.

#### 5. Policy Consultation

We are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers on the delivery of the RSE curriculum, we want our parents and carers to feel included and involved in how we are working with their children when educating them on sensitive and thought provoking topics featured within this curriculum. We will always share information with parents in an informative and consultative way that allows for a dialogue between home and school in order to strengthen the practice and provision we can deliver to our children.

(See Appendix 3 a guide for parents this is something we recommend sharing with parents)

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation process involved the following steps:

- 1. Staff consultation all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations. In addition to this, the Pastoral Team met to review the policy before distributing it to staff.
- 2. Parent/stakeholder consultation parents and any interested parties were invited to share their feedback through the use of a Google Form. The feedback was taken into consideration when rewriting the policy. The publication of supporting resources and materials for the 'puberty' and 'growing up lessons' are made available to parents prior to the delivery of these. We work to incorporate parental feedback into the development and delivery of these lessons. (See Appendix 5).
- 3. Pupil consultation we conducted a pupil voice to find out what exactly pupils want from their RSE lessons. Areas of sensitivity will be handled appropriately and will lead into how the content is delivered. Staff are aware of the differing backgrounds and life experiences of the children. These views and beliefs of our families will be handled sensitively.

#### 6. Aims and Objectives for Relationship and Sex Education

The aim of RSE is to provide children with age appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions about their health related behaviour. This should take place with consideration of the qualities of relationships within families.

- 6.1 The objectives of Sex and Relationship Education are:
  - a) To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled. To clarify/reinforce existing knowledge.
  - b) To raise pupils' self -esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others.
  - c) To help pupils understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives.
  - d) To help pupils' develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) and make the most of their abilities.
  - e) To provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others. To help gain access to information and support.
  - f) To develop skills for a healthier safer lifestyle.
  - g) To develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media.
  - h) To respect and care for their bodies.
  - i) To be prepared for puberty and adulthood.

- 6.2 RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:
  - a) Families
  - b) Respectful relationships, including friendships
  - c) Online and media
  - d) Being safe
  - e) Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

#### 7. Sex Education

At Tockwith CE Primary Academy, we will be continuing to provide some additional content on sex education to meet the needs of our pupils in line with all primary schools within our trust. We already choose to teach some aspects of sex education and will continue to do so in line with DfE advice that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born. In addition to this, we will also address issues affecting children including female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriages.

At Tockwith CE Primary Academy, we will teach how a baby is conceived and born in Year 6. We will consult parents before the delivery of these sessions regarding the detailed content of what will be taught. This process will include offering parents support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this with what is being taught in school. During this time, we will offer parents and legal guardians the opportunity to view the content of the sessions and ask any questions regarding its delivery.

The progressive long term plan for the RSE curriculum will include the following objectives in Year 6: **How a baby is made** 

- To recognise and know about the male and female reproductive organs.
- To use keywords linked to reproduction.
- To know the process involved in fertilisation
- To know what needs to be considered before a couple decide to have a baby
- To develop an awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

In line with statutory policy, parents have a right to withdraw their children from this aspect of the curriculum (as detailed more fully below).

#### 8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents **have** the right to withdraw their children from the **[non-statutory/non-science]** components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in <u>Appendix 4</u> of this policy and addressed to the headteacher. We will invite you to talk through your concerns, explain our school's rationale for RSE and invite you to review some of the materials we hope to use. Withdrawing your child from sex education remains a statutory right as a parent or legal guardian.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

#### 9. The organisation of Relationship and Sex Education

Our school's overall aim is to give all children the best possible opportunities to grow and develop as people in their own right during their time at Tockwith CE Primary Academy.

Relationship and sex education is delivered through science, PSHE, Citizenship and circle time. Sex and relationship education is taught by classroom teachers, teaching assistants and if appropriate, outside visitors such as the school nurse. A range of teaching methods, which involve children's full participation, are used to teach sex and relationship education. These include use of video, discussion, looking at case studies, drama and role play. Resources to teach sex and relationship education may include fiction, reference books, leaflets and extracts from video clips. Sex and relationship education is usually delivered in mixed gender groups; however, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant (See the Progression of knowledge and skills for SRE, see appendix 2).

Consistency across all staff and across all areas is really important. All staff promote the same message. Our vision is: 'to inspire everyone to reach their individual potential, and through our Christian Values, prepare them for the future'. This, coupled with our school vision for all children to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10), enables children to see the importance of these sessions beyond the walls of the classroom and into the wider world where they will live their lives as well rounded modern-day citizens. Our Pastoral lead is available to be contacted directly through the pastoral@tockwithprimary email address to liaise with parents and legal guardians directly.

#### 10. The Role of Visitors in regards to RSE

Visitors are invited into school because of the particular expertise or contribution they are able to make. All visitors are familiar with and understand the school's RSE policy and work within it. Where it is deemed appropriate, the school may call upon specialists or guest speakers to contribute to the delivery of lessons to enhance children's learning experience.

#### 11. SEND Pupils and Vulnerable groups

Relationships Education, Sex and Health Education must be accessible for all our pupils. This is particularly important when planning teaching for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will be the starting point to ensure accessibility for those pupils who do have additional needs.

At Tockwith CE Primary Academy, we are aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their SEND. Relationships Education and RSE can also be a subject that provokes much thought and discussion for pupils. For the more vulnerable pupils; for example those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs or learning disabilities. We are aware that making adaptations, pre-teaching and regular liaison and consultation with those pupils will be needed. Consultation with parents will also take place before, during and after the delivery of these sessions.

#### 12. Safeguarding Children

When teaching any sensitive topic, such as RSE, which deals with family life, safe and appropriate touching, personal body parts and healthy relationships, we recognise the potential to uncover incidents of abuse through children's disclosures.

All members of staff, who deliver any of our Relationship or Sex Education Programme, have statutory training around safeguarding children and are all aware of our school's safeguarding policy and procedures in the case of a disclosure or suspicion of a safeguarding concern.

We recognise that for children who may be vulnerable due to past or present abuse or changes in family situations, this type of work, whilst it may be sensitive, there may be needs to adapt the programme or offer additional support. It is also a protective factor in preventing further abuse, to help them make sense of their experiences and essential to help them develop skills and resilience to keep them safe in the future.

#### 13. Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

Tockwith CE Primary Academy believes that SRE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context. We also work inline with with Guidance from the Church of England's guidance of Valuing all God's children

#### 14. Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a difference of opinions.

#### 15. Dealing with Difficult Questions

Both formal and informal RSE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the member of staff responsible for safeguarding if they are concerned. (See Appendix 1)

#### 16. Monitoring & Evaluation

The senior leadership team will work with subject leaders to monitor the provision of RSE across the school. This will be completed a minimum of once a term and will include learning walks, CPD, pupil perceptions and work monitoring. Pupils' perception evaluations will be used to monitor the progress of pupils' understanding of RSE. It is the responsibility of each leadership team to ensure that pupil voice and parental consultation remains at the heart of the RSE core offer.

#### Appendix 1: Additional guidance for supporting children

#### **Answering Children's Questions:**

- 1. We are aware that children are likely to have many questions that may occur at any time. Children tend to ask whatever is on their mind. We see this as a positive point and a sign that we have created a safe environment where children feel empowered to feed their natural curiosity and learn about themselves, their bodies and the world around them. However, we acknowledge that some parents may feel uncomfortable about how particular questions may be dealt with in class.
- 2. We believe children are better off receiving honest, open answers from safe adults in their lives, rather than it being left to the internet or older children with a smartphone. In the age of information, where children in primary have access to tablets, smartphones and the internet (often unsupervised) it is essential that we help children to recognise they are able to ask questions without judgement rather than searching for answers on the internet.
- 3. By tackling the topic in a matter of fact manner, without embarrassment means that we take the mystic allure out of the topic, making sex no longer the secret taboo. However uncomfortable a proposition that may be, it is far better than the alternative. For children these questions are not rude, they are simply signs of a healthy and natural curiosity. We can stop the topic becoming taboo and embarrassing and removing the stigma before it has had a chance to form.
- 4. We believe that if children ask a question they deserve an answer. If ignored they merely build unnecessary barriers, making children think they have done something wrong; they are unlikely to ask again, and are instead left to seek their answers from less reliable or child friendly sources, due to shame. However uncomfortable the question may be, the thought is already in their head. It is much better we as safe adults take responsibility and tackle the question safely and age appropriately.
- 5. Staff have received training as to how to deal with children's questions age appropriately. This will be done consistently across the school as follows:
  - a) Children will be praised for asking questions. We wish to encourage children to seek answers from safe adults.
  - b) If a question is relevant to the whole class, we will answer it to the whole group. However, as with any other subject, there may occasionally, be the need to
  - c) differentiate depending on children's knowledge and experience. Some children may need additional information or support compared to others.
  - d) If a child asks a question that is not necessarily suitable for the entire class, we will respond, by saying: "that is fantastic question, hold that thought, I am going to set everyone some work and I will come and talk to you and answer your question in a minute when everyone else is working."
  - e) If the member of staff doesn't have an answer or doesn't know, they will say so.
  - f) There is no shame in not knowing the answer, but the member of staff should try to help the child to find the answer later.
  - g) If the member of staff is not sure how best to answer a particularly tricky question, our suggested response is: "That is a brilliant question, I would like to give you an equally brilliant answer, so let me have a think about it and once I know the best way to explain it clearly I will come back to you"

- h) This will allow teaching staff time to think, seek help, advice or support from colleagues, or to speak to senior management.
- 6. If a child asks a question we know parents may be uncomfortable with, staff may choose to delay answering the question (as above) until they have spoken to the parent/carer if possible and talk through their response.
- 7. Teachers will answer questions, openly, honestly, scientifically and factually without relying on their own personal beliefs. Teachers will not be expected to answer personal questions about themselves or to ask direct personal questions of their students that could make either parties vulnerable.

## **Appendix 2: RSE Curriculum Plan**

Relationships and Sex Education <a href="https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/schools-and-youth/schools-education-homepage/help-for-schools/relationships-sex-and-health-education">https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/schools-and-youth/schools-education-homepage/help-for-schools/relationships-sex-and-health-education</a>						
Physical Development: ELG: Health and selfcare Children know the importance for good health of physical exercise, and a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe. They manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs successfully, including dressing and going to the toilet independently. PSED ELG: Self Confidence and self awareness Children are confident to try new activities, and say why they like some activities more than others. They are confident to speak in a familiar group, will talk about their ideas, and will choose the resources they need for their chosen activities. They say when they do or don't need help.	My Special People To know what a special person is To identify people special to them To know what makes people special To know about friendship. To understand that special people care for each other. To know how special people care for each other. Thank you is an important thing to say to special people	We are Growing – Human Life Cycle To know things change as they grow To know about the Life Cycle To know how babies change To know people need different things compared to babies To know about responsibilities now and in the future Everybody's Body I know boys and girls' bodies have similarities and differences. I know and can label male and female body parts. I know animals can be male or female	What makes a good friend?  To know different types of friendship To understand why friendship is important Know the qualities of a good friend To know how to maintain a good friendship Describe the qualities of a good friend Falling out with friends To understand that sometimes friends fall out To know how to prevent an argument To know how to mend a friendship	Time to Change To label male and female body parts To know that puberty is about changes. To know about changes in boys during puberty. To know about changes in girls during puberty Personal Hygiene To know that hygiene is important. To know that during puberty certain parts of the body need to be kept clean I know which products to buy to keep clean.	Menstruation and Wet Dreams To label male and female body parts. To know about the menstrual cycle. To know about wet dreams Emotions To know about different feelings and emotions during puberty. To understand feelings will include highs and lows. To know about crushes. To develop strategies to manage feelings with support.	Puberty Change and becoming independent Positive and Healthy Relationships To know about physical and emotional changes in puberty To know about different types relationships To know what makes a positive, healthy relationship To know that respect is important in all relationships How a baby is made To recognise and know about the male and female reproductive organs. To use keywords linked to reproduction. To know the process involved in fertilisation To know what needs to be considered before a couple decide to have a baby To develop an awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
Relationships and Sex Education Progression of Vocabulary						
I like I don't like I need the toilet Wash, safe, healthy, like, don't like	Special Special Care, Family, Mum, Dad, Grandparents. Grandma(or similar),	GROWING UP Change, Cycle, Baby, Child, Adult, Grow	FRIENDSHIP Family, Friend, Friendship, group, neighbour, care	TIME TO CHANGE Puberty, Physical, Grow, Mature, Child, Teenager, Adult, Genitals, Vulva,	MENSTRUATION AND WET DREAMS Internal, reproductive organs, uterus, fallopian tubes,	PUBERTY RECAP puberty, person, child, teenager, adult, changing, growing, physical,

	Grandad (or similar), Brother, Sister, Happy, Friend	EVERYBODY'S BODY Grow, Change, Similarities, Similar, Differences, Different, Vagina, Penis, Testicles, Bottom	FALLING OUT Falling Out, Disagreement. Conflict, Argument, Problem, Solve, Solution	Vagina, Penis, Testicles, Breasts, Pubic hair, Adam's apple HYGIENE hygiene, clean, cleanliness, sweat, body odour, spots, periods, sanitary, tampon	ovary/ovaries, vulva, vagina, menstruation, menstrual cycle, period, blood, sanitary pads, tampons, Adam's apple, penis, testicles, scrotum, sperm, semen, erection, ejaculation, wet dream, pubic hair EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS emotions, roller coaster, up and down, frustrated, angry, moody, adolescent, advice, support	emotions, feelings, bodies, now, future  CHANGE AND BECOMING INDEPENDENT change, life cycle, baby, toddler, child, adolescent, teenager, adult, middle-age, older person, growing up, feelings, emotions, independence POSITIVE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS relationship, friendship, couple, love, positive, qualities, values, expectations, responsibility, responsibilities HOW BABIES ARE MADE Love, respect, consent, commitment, woman, man, human, reproduction, sex, sexual intercourse, fertilised, sperm, ovum, penis, vagina, fallopian tubes, pregnancy, baby, foetus, uterus, womb, contraception Female Genital Mutilation
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# Understanding Relationships and Health Education in your child's primary school: a guide for parents

We want all children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, from September 2020, 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 a 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 for your child.

Your child's school will have flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.

## Relationships Education

Relationships Education will put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including with family, friends and online.

Your child will be taught what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them. In an age-appropriate way, your child's school will cover how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families and people who care for me
- caring friendships
- · respectful relationships
- · online relationships
- being safe

You can find further detail by searching 'relationships and health education' on GOV.UK.

#### **Health Education**

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.



By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- · healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

You can find further detail by searching 'relationships and health education' on GOV.UK.

## Your rights as a parent

The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum. Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up.

Your child's school is required to consult with you when developing and renewing their policies on Relationships Education. These policies must be published online and be available to anybody free of charge.

You can express your opinion, and this will help your child's school decide how and when to cover the content of the statutory guidance. It may also help them decide whether to teach additional non-statutory content. Schools are required to ensure their teaching reflects the age and religious background of their pupils.

Some schools will start to teach these subjects from September 2019 – if you'd like to know more, please speak to your child's school about what they plan to teach.





Right to withdraw your child

You cannot withdraw your child from Relationships Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe.

Your child's primary school can choose to teach Sex Education. If you'd like to know more about this, we recommend speaking to the school to understand what will be taught and when. If you do not want your child to take part in some or all of the lessons on Sex Education, you can ask that they are withdrawn. At primary level, the head teacher must grant this request.

The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.



If you want to know more about what will be taught as part of the new subjects, the best thing to do is speak to your child's school.

## Appendix 4: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED	D BY PARENTS					
Name of child		Class				
Name of parent		Date				
Reason for withdra	wing from sex education within relationsh	nips and sex educat	ion			
Any other information you would like the school to consider						
Parent signature						
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL						
	BT THE SCHOOL					
Agreed actions from discussion						
with parents						
Staff Signature						
July Signature						

#### **Appendix 5: RSE Letter to parents**

Dear parents carers,

as a part of your child's education and experience at Tockwith CE Primary Academy, we aim to promote personal well-being and development through a comprehensively taught 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. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, schools have been able to delay this until the summer term 2021. The statutory guidance can be found <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

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, well-being, 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 to take responsibility for their own well-being.

Consequently, from September 2021, relationships, along with health education, will be statutory and form part of the national curriculum. The DfE continue to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education program tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Schools provide sex education at Key Stage 1 and 2, parents will have the right to withdraw their child from sex education but not from statutory relationship education and health education or what is taught in the science curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our relationships and sex education (RSC) curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural background
- Special Educational Needs and disabilities

Schools are legally required to teach the national curriculum. The right to withdraw children from some lessons explained within the policy which will be available on our website.

Kind regards,

Mr White