



Withymoor Primary School
'Learning together, aiming for excellence'

December 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As you may already be aware, the Department of Education has announced changes to Relationships and Sex Education following a nationwide consultation. Schools are required to comply with the updated requirements. The statutory guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sex-and-relationship-education>

This 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 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 wellbeing.

Consequently, from September 2020, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, have formed part of the National Curriculum but, due to the current pandemic, the Government have given schools until Summer 2021 to get everything completely in place.

We have therefore been updating our RHSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure that our provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

There will inevitably be a variety of opinions about this topic – what should and should not be taught - so, in line with other schools, we are asking Withymoor parents and carers for their feedback. We feel it is important to get your views as they will help to inform our decisions and develop the content of this particular curriculum for Withymoor children. We will be asking your views about:

- Our draft policy for Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE)
- When (by what age) and how certain content within the subject is covered

What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for 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 some lessons is explained in the FAQs which accompanies this letter.

We had planned to hold forums in school to support us with this, but cannot at the moment due to the pandemic. To help you understand the curriculum requirements, I

have attached the information to this email that I would encourage you to read. This includes:

- A summary of what all pupils are expected to know by the end of primary school
- FAQ sheet
- Our proposed draft policy
- DfE guidance that outlines statutory requirements
- A copy of a PowerPoint presentation for parents

A questionnaire via Microsoft Forms will follow shortly.

The consultation process will start on Wednesday 2nd December and end on Wednesday 16th December.

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process. Once we have considered all the feedback, the draft updated policy will be uploaded to the school's website which will also set out the proposed curriculum and how you can feedback.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not to hesitate to contact me via info@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rebecca C Tong
Deputy Headteacher