



25 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy Parental Consultation

As a part of your child's educational experience at Scapegoat Hill we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive 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 have come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. The statutory guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

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, wellbeing, 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 take responsibility for their own wellbeing.

Consequently, from September 2020 Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education will be statutory and form part of the National Curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSHE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities
- Family make up and relationships

Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our school's decisions on when and how certain content is covered, and enable us to reach a general consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would like your views on:

- The government's new statutory framework for primary schools (see attached document)
- When and how content within this subject is covered for your child. For example, the teaching of menstruation in Year 4

What is taught and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content as schools are legally required to teach the National Curriculum. However, the right to withdraw children from Sex Education will be offered to parents before any non-statutory lessons are taught. As this is in Year 6 we will provide an opportunity in the summer term to view lesson materials so you are able to make an informed decision.

We are currently in unprecedented times which makes it a little more challenging to consult with you. To help you understand the curriculum requirements I have attached the information alongside this letter which can also be found on our website which I would encourage you to read. This includes:

- a summary of what all pupils are expected to know by the end of primary school
- DfE guidance that outlines statutory requirements
- a questionnaire (the link is: <https://forms.office.com/r/BWH9XE3ja4>)

These will be in an electronic format. If you would like paper copies please contact the school office.

Your views are especially important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process in the summer term. Once we have considered all the feedback, the draft updated Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy will be uploaded to the school's website which will also set out the proposed curriculum and how you can feedback.

I hope you find this letter and attached information informative. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Kind regards
The RSHE Leadership Team