

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: New statutory curriculum of Relationships and Sex Education 2020 Parent Consultation**

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced changes to its Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum. These changes need to come into effect in all schools by the Summer Term of 2021 at the latest and all schools will be required to comply with the updated statutory requirements by this date.

### **What is changing?**

The DfE are introducing statutory Relationships Education at primary school in order to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will cover: family and friends; how to treat each other with kindness and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships. This curriculum was last updated 19 years ago so there was a clear need for updates to certain sections.

Health Education is also being made a statutory element of the curriculum at primary level. 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.

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

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and/or disabilities

We plan to teach the Relationships Education and Health Education curriculum within our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) lessons, statutory elements from which parents cannot opt out.

### **Sex Education**

We believe it is important for children to be taught about puberty in Year 5 and conception in Year 6 in a way which is appropriate to the age and physical and emotional maturity of our pupils.

You have the right to withdraw your child from parts of this learning and you are welcome to view the resources before they are shared with the children.





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## Curricular Scheme

To ensure our children get the very best teaching in these areas we have chosen to use the award-winning resource *1decision*. The Local Authority have supported the use of this scheme. A whole school curriculum map which details exactly what will be taught in each year group can be found in the draft RSE policy.

*1decision* is part of Headway Education and has been kitemarked by the PSHE Association, the governing body for the subject in the UK, as being a quality assured product. The *1decision* resources have been developed over the past seven years and each module has been created by PSHE and Safeguarding experts together with schools, and most importantly children. As a school we are proud to say we will be using these resources and you may like to find out more about them by visiting their website: [www.1decision.co.uk](http://www.1decision.co.uk)

## RSE Policy

A draft RSE policy has been drawn up by the Local Authority, school leaders and governors. We as a school would like to adopt the policy, subject to feedback received during the consultation period. You will be able to read the draft policy and offer us feedback during the consultation period.

## Consultation and Survey

Under normal circumstances, we would hold face to face meetings to discuss this. However, with social distancing measures still in place, we need to avoid this in order to keep everyone safe. We are opening an **online consultation which will run from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November until 18<sup>th</sup> December**. You will receive all the necessary information and documents prior to this date.

We have set up a confidential survey to gather your views on these changes. You will be emailed a link to complete this survey online. If you would like a hard copy of the survey, please request one via the school office. Please only complete the survey when you have read all the information available. The survey deadline is **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm**.

We look forward to opening up a positive conversation with you about these changes and ultimately for us to have an updated RSE curriculum that best meets the needs of our pupils here at Handsworth.

Thank you in advance for your input.

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Headteacher

Lorraine Bossman  
PSHE Leader