



8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Parent Consultation

As part of your child's education at Higher Bebington Junior School, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development by giving children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive lives and meet their full potential.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced new statutory guidance to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in schools and all schools are required to comply with the updated changes and requirements. These were initially meant to be in place by September 2020, however due to Covid-19 this has been extended until Summer term 2021.

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. Lessons will include the children learning about: healthy relationships including friendships; families and different types of families; growing and changing; personal hygiene; changing feelings; becoming more independent; keeping safe; developing self-esteem and confidence.

At Higher Bebington Junior School, children begin to learn about puberty in Year 4- making links between the elements of the statutory science curriculum that looks at life processes and reproduction in some plants and animals as well as the discussing the changes in the adolescent body as part of health education.

We will teach Sex Education (focusing on puberty and reproduction) which goes beyond the existing national curriculum for science to children in Year 5 and 6 only. This will run alongside their science and relationships lessons. In Year 5, the main focus of this is on puberty and in Year 6 this is extended to cover basic facts about conception and pregnancy. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the Sex Education curriculum that will be delivered. However, the Science content (which includes puberty) and Relationships aspect is statutory.

As a result of these changes, the Governing Body and I have been reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so that we can be sure that alongside following the statutory guidance, our RSE provision is appropriate for our children based on their:

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



Headteacher: Mrs S. Calveley B.Ed.(Hons)

With this in mind, we have chosen to use the *Christopher Winter Project's 'Teaching SRE with confidence in Primary Schools'* as our RSE scheme of work.

As part of this, we had planned to hold a Parents Workshop in the last academic year but this was unable to go ahead. We had hoped to be able to postpone until this year but again Covid-19 restrictions mean that this is still not possible. I would therefore be grateful if you could visit the RSE Curriculum tab on the school website and look at the resources on there.

You will find:

- A copy of our draft policy
- A RSE PowerPoint for Parents with further information
- A copy of our FAQ's sheet- including information on the right to withdraw children from some lessons.
- An overview of the RSE Scheme of Work for each year group- providing a summary of what will be taught.

In addition to this, you will also be sent a form to complete via Parent Mail which gives you the opportunity to give your views on the RSE curriculum. Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion on this, it is important to us that we hear your views on this- either positive or otherwise. However, I must point out that 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. The right to withdraw your child from some non-statutory lessons is explained again in the PowerPoint and FAQ's.

The main consultation questions on the Parent Mail form are as follows:

1. Are there any changes or additions you think should be made to our RSE policy?
2. Are there any changes or additions that your think should be made to our RSE curriculum overview and content?
3. Thinking about relationships and sex education, is there an area that you think **should be** taught in certain age groups and why?
4. Thinking about relationships and sex education, is there an area that you think **should not** be taught in certain age groups and why?
5. Would you like support at home on how to speak to your child about relationship and sex education issues?
6. Is there anything we're not covering that you think we need to address, specific to our school context?

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this consultation and answer any questions raised. The form will open today and close on Friday 2nd April 2021.

I hope this letter and the information on the website goes some way to alleviate any worries you may have. Please do get in touch with any further queries or concerns.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Calveley
Headteacher

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Higher Bebington Junior School



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