

RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) Policy Consultation

Higher Bebington Junior School

Common Principles

We all want what is best for children.

We want to protect children and to keep them safe.

We want children to be healthy and happy. High quality RSE is part of this.

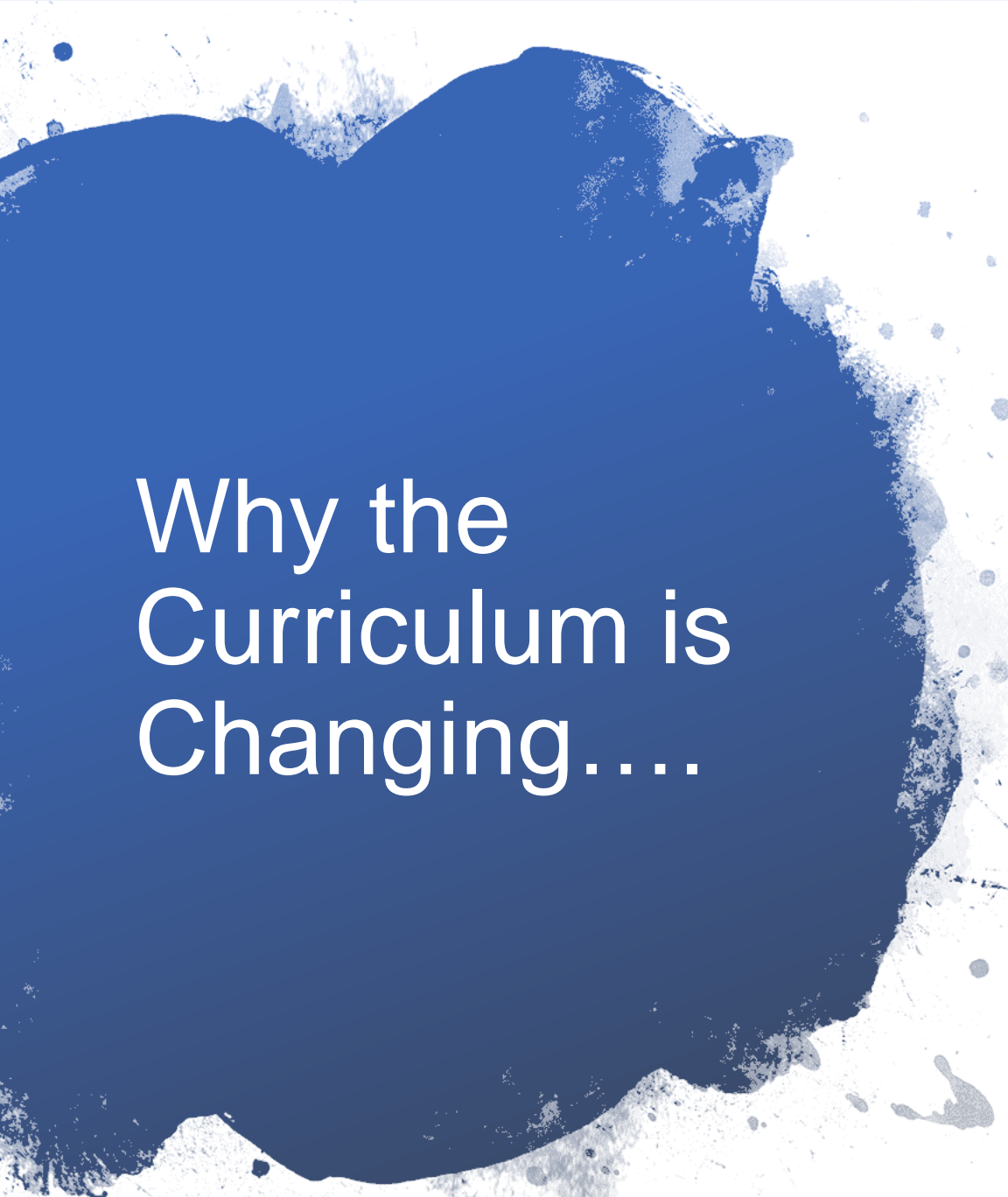
Why is Relationships and Sex (RSE) Education in Schools Important?

- High quality RSE helps create safe school communities in which students can grow, learn, and develop positive, healthy behaviour for life, and for the following reasons:
- RSE plays a vital part in schools fulfilling their statutory duties to protect and safeguard their students. Ofsted is clear that schools must have a preventative programme that enables students to learn about safety and risks in relationships.
- A comprehensive RSE programme can have a positive impact on students' health and wellbeing and their ability to achieve.
- Technology is evolving at a tremendous pace. The need to protect children and young people from inappropriate online content, cyberbullying and exploitation is a growing concern. A comprehensive RSE programme can support in addressing these issues.



RSE is also important because...

- Puberty is starting earlier- for some children by age 9
- It helps prevent unwanted teenage conceptions
- It helps to safeguarding children and prevent:
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Grooming
 - Abuse
 - Sexting
 - Online pornography



Why the Curriculum is Changing....

- Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline.
- This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a new legislation on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education in Schools.
- Safeguarding Children is at the heart of Relationships and Sex Education.

Where and when do young people learn about sex and relationships?

Where and how did you learn about sex and relationships?
For young people, their learning comes from...

Mobile phones



TV



Internet



School



Friends & Older Siblings



Parents & Carers



- Children learn about sex and relationships from a wide range of sources- not all of them are accurate.
- Misinformation or incorrect perceptions can cause a whole range of issues for children as they grow up.
- We want to make sure that we are equipping them with age appropriate, factually correct information as well as providing a safe, respectful environment for questions and discussion.



Ofsted review of existing RSE nationally

- Required improved in over a third of schools was not systematic enough.
- Children were not adequately prepared for puberty.
- In Primary Schools, too much emphasis was placed on friendships and relationships.



Recommendations for Changes:

- Introduce children to the correct scientific terms to describe body parts in Key Stage 1
- Challenge the use of 'gay' as an insult and include work around the makeup of different families
- Explore/ challenge gender roles/ stereotypes
- Begin to explore puberty changes by the age of 8/9
- Deliver RSE in a progressive way across the school
- Ensure that children in Year 5 and 6 receive RSE input around puberty so that they are prepared as soon as possible for the onset of puberty
- For some sessions on Sex Education consider single gender sessions

Changes

- A new curriculum for Relationships and Sex Education became mandatory from September 2020 (postponed to Summer 2021 due to Covid-19).
- Primary schools **must** teach relationships education and health education, including education on mental wellbeing.
- Primary schools are not required to teach sex education. However the DfE recommends 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'*.

What is effective Relationships & Sex Education (RSE)?

- Age appropriate
- Based on needs of the pupils (see later slides)
- Progressive
- Inclusive
- Delivered by trained staff in a safe environment
- Prepares children adequately for puberty in a timely way
- Prepares children for adult life
- Promotes positive relationships

Purpose of Consultation

- As a school, we would always want to deliver a curriculum which has the support of the vast majority, if not all, parents.
- We believe that children will accept information which is given to them in small chunks over time and at an **age appropriate level** more easily than information which is 'kept secret' until they are in Y6.
- We recognise that children need an increasing level of skill to deal with the modern world and the impact of social networking, advertising and media.
- Schools and parents have a responsibility to give a positive message which builds children's resilience to the negative messages they may encounter through the easy availability of pornography / photo-shopped body images / TV programmes such as Love Island which portray sex as separate from relationships.
- We would want all pupils to grow with the knowledge of natural changes before they happen, and pupils can encounter puberty at a relatively young age. For example, while the average age for a girl to begin menstruation in the UK is 12, many begin in Y5 & Y6 with some as early as Y3 & Y4.

Your rights as a parent:

- To be informed of the RSE curriculum and policy.
- To be consulted about changes to these.
- To withdraw your child from Sex Education lessons (that are outside of/ additional to the Science National Curriculum).

Relationships and Sex Education: Introduction

- **Relationships Education** is **compulsory** for all primary age pupils from September 2020.
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) will be compulsory for all Secondary age pupils.
- **Health Education** will be compulsory for all pupils in all state funded schools.
- Teaching at school will complement (not replace) and reinforce the lessons families teach their children as they grow up.
- At Higher Bebington Junior School, we aim to flexibly and inclusively deliver any content in a way that is **age and developmentally appropriate** with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of pupils and parents while always with the aim of providing pupils with the knowledge they need of the law.

Overview of Teaching Expectations: Primary

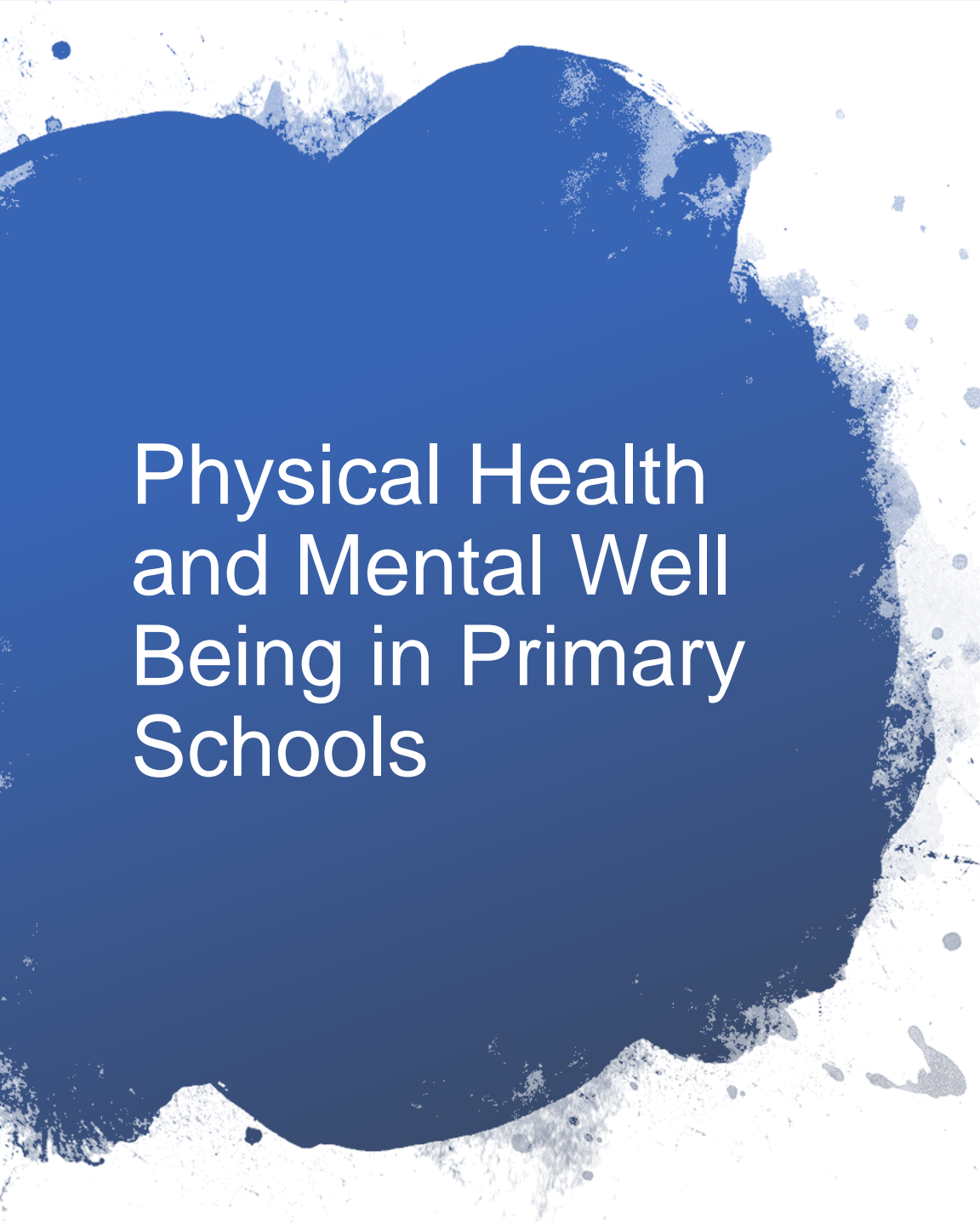
Relationships Education (Primary)	Physical Health and Mental Well Being (Primary)
Families and people who care for me	Mental Wellbeing
Caring Friendships	Internet Safety and Harms
Respectful Relationships	Physical Health and Fitness
Online Relationships	Healthy Eating
Being Safe	Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
	Health and Prevention
	Basic First Aid
	Changing Adolescent Body

Relationships Education in Primary Schools.

Relationships Education is introduced at Primary and students explore the following areas:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring Friendships
- Respectful Relationships
- Online Relationships
- Being Safe

Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools. Primary schools that choose to teach Sex Education should tailor teaching to take account of the age and the physical maturity of their pupils and must allow parents to withdraw their children where requested.



Physical Health and Mental Well Being in Primary Schools

- The aim of teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing is to give them information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing with a clear focus on reducing stigma attached to health issues.
- In primary school, the focus should be on teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing and the benefits of hobbies, interests and participation in their own communities.
- By embedding these principles teachers should be able to address issues such as isolation, loneliness, unhappiness, bullying and the negative impacts of poor health and wellbeing.
- Physical Health and Mental Well Being Teaching in Primary include learning units around Mental Wellbeing, Internet Safety and Harms, Physical Health and Fitness, Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco/Basic First Aid/Changing Adolescent Body)

What will my child be taught at Higher Bebington Junior School?

- At Higher Bebington Junior School, we will be following the *Christopher Winter Project's 'Teaching SRE with confidence in Primary Schools'* scheme of work. It has been awarded at Quality Mark from the PSHE Association for providing a comprehensive and balanced scheme of work that and in line with best practice in PSHE teaching and learning.
- 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.
- There are 3 lessons for each year group (4 lessons in Year 6) that will be delivered in the second half of the summer term for each year group as part of RSE week.
- Parents will get advanced notice of when this week will take place so that you can be prepared for any questions and discussion at home that may arise as a result.

Whole School Approach

- All of these subjects should be and are set in the context of a wider whole-school approach to supporting pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school.
- For example, the curriculum on relationships and sex should complement, and be supported by, the school's wider policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, bullying and safeguarding.
- At the heart of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education, there is a focus on keeping children safe and the role that schools can play in preventative education.
- Clear reference of this link is included in our Draft RSE Policy.



RSE Policy

A draft RSE Policy has been drawn up to reflect current statutory guidance including RSE curriculum offer.

Our Draft RSE policy in line with RSE Guidance 2020 includes information on:

- What is Relationships and Sex Education
- Aims and Objectives
- Links with other policies
- RSE Curriculum content and planning, answering difficult questions, areas of responsibility, sensitive issues,
- Safeguarding and Confidentiality,
- Parental right to withdraw their child

Summary

- Parents have the right to withdraw children from Sex Education lessons at Primary School that go **beyond** the content in the Science National Curriculum.
- **Topics covered related and linked to the Science Curriculum are statutory** and not optional to teach. This is as follows:
 - In Key Stage 1, children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They should be introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth but not how reproduction occurs.
 - In Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5/6), children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including reproduction. They also learn about the change that happens in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning about what happens in puberty.
- Schools have the right and obligation to teach RSE topics to prepare children for life when they leave school.
- The curriculum on Relationships and Sex Education should complement, and be supported by, the school's wider policies on Behaviour, bullying and safeguarding (PSEH; E-Safety, Relationships etc).

Support for parents and carers.

DfE has produced guides for parents of primary and secondary aged children which can be used by schools to communicate how relationships and health education will be taught. The guides provide details of topics that will be covered and information of parent's rights to withdraw. (DfE, 2019c).

You may access relevant guides following the link below
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

These are also accessible on the School Website.

Next Steps:

- Please look at the materials on the school website:
- Please respond to the survey which can be found as a Parent Mail form.
- We are particularly interested in your views about when to tackle different concepts and any areas you might like further support with at home.
- I am aware that there will be differences of opinion, but we will take your views into account when we finalise our policy and curriculum plan.