

Whitehill Community Academy

Opening Minds, Unlocking Potential, Celebrating Success Together

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may already be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, now forms part of the National Curriculum as of September 2020. As a result of the coronavirus, there is a delay in the required teaching start date, which is now the Summer term in 2021.

As part of our school's wider Personal, Social and Health Education programme, your child will be receiving lessons on relationships, sexual health and personal safety. As a school with a relatively forward thinking curriculum, there isn't a great deal of change with this new implementation, nonetheless you need to be aware of the changes.

Schools are required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered. Attached you will find our new RSE policy and in Appendix 2 you will see the curriculum content per year group. The resources we use to deliver these lessons are all age-appropriate recommendations from the PSHE association.

The purpose of the upcoming curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. However, we are confident you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the new PSHE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all our pupils. You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in primary schools. You will find all the information you need, on the right to withdraw, on page 5 of the RSE policy. There is also a parental withdrawal form in Appendix 3 of the policy.

Please let me know if you have any feedback on our RSE policy.

With Kindest Regards
Miss Roche
Head of Inclusion & DSL
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