

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a part of your child's educational experience at Ellington Primary School, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught 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 came into effect from September 2020 from when all schools were required to comply with the updated requirements. Due to COVID 19 schools have been able to delay this until the 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.

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 well-being.

Consequently, from September 2020, Relationships, along with Health Education, have been statutory, and form part of the National Curriculum. For Secondary schools Sex Education will also become statutory. However, the DfE continue to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Where schools provide sex education at key stages 1 and 2, parents will have the right to withdraw their child from sex education but not from statutory Relationships Education, Health Education or what is taught in the Science National curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

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

Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our schools' 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 appreciate your views on our policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

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 children from some lessons is explained within the policy, which is on our website.

As a school community, we are currently in unprecedented times, which make it a little more challenging to consult with you. To help you understand the curriculum requirements therefore I have placed information on our website that I would encourage you to read and to respond to using the online questionnaire. Please visit:

[http://ellingtonprimaryschool.co.uk/website/rse\\_consultation/558129](http://ellingtonprimaryschool.co.uk/website/rse_consultation/558129)

When you have had time to read through the policy and curriculum outline for RSE on the school by clicking on the above link, you can access the anonymous online questionnaire to share your views by clicking this link:

<https://forms.gle/Zj5Thm5ZFggWdnxd7>

Your views are important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process when we have considered all the feedback and finalised our Relationships and Sex Education Policy and curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

K Vardy

Headteacher