



Woodsetton School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

SRE Education from September 2020

As you may already be aware, the Government have decided that Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE) is to become statutory in all primary schools from September 2020. We are pleased that this decision has been made as it means that all children will have the opportunity to learn about different relationships, different families, growing up, puberty and their changing bodies.

As Relationships, Sex and Health Education is now compulsory, parents and carers can no longer request to withdraw their children from the relationships and health objectives which link to the National Curriculum as part of their science learning. This includes information about puberty and how the human body changes. The PSHE Association states, 'Teaching about puberty before children experience it is essential to ensure that pupils' physical, emotional and learning needs are met and that they have the correct information about how to take care of their bodies and keep themselves safe.'

Ofsted's PSHE lead, Janet Palmer HMI, has said: 'If pupils are kept ignorant of their human, physical and sexual rights... they are not being adequately safeguarded.'

In order to keep pupils safe, it is vital that they learn about puberty before it happens. NHS advice states that puberty can begin as early as 8 for girls and 9 for boys. At Woodsetton, we aim to teach children about puberty in Year Six.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education will be statutory for all primary children, and as previously stated, this means that parents and carers cannot withdraw their children from these lessons. However, they will be able to request that their child is withdrawn from lessons about Sex Education taught as part of the Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum which are not statutory. Before making any decision however, we would urge any parents and carers considering withdrawing their child from these lessons to bear in mind what is being taught, how it is being taught and how important this education is for all children.

Our Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum is fully inclusive to meet the needs of all of our pupils. We will be covering the following objectives:

- being a good friend
- kind and unkind behaviours, including bullying
- teamwork and resolving disputes
- feelings we experience and how to discuss our feelings
- self-worth and self-respect
- important people in our lives
- consent (with regards to human rights) and autonomy
- secrets and surprises
- growing up and physical and emotional changes to our bodies
- different families and relationships
- differences, similarities and stereotypes
- body image

At Woodsetton, we fully believe that all children should learn about these important aspects of life in an open, honest and safe environment. We also believe that they should be taught in an age-appropriate and engaging way. We encourage parents and carers to view our Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy and Scheme of Work Overview, both of which are attached together with this letter. We believe it is important to have a strong partnership with parents and carers and will always communicate what is being taught and when it is being taught. We will also provide any further reading or support for any parents and carers wishing to discuss the objectives being taught with their children at home.

Traditionally at Woodsetton, we have taught the puberty element of RSE at the end of Year 6. This is generally delivered by the School Nurse. It is our intention to continue with this, however, parents will have the right to withdraw. Before any Sex Education lessons are delivered, the lesson content will be shared with parents. Any children who are subsequently withdrawn from this element of the Relationships Education lessons will have to be provided with alternative learning in another learning space.

If there is any part of the curriculum that you have concerns or queries about, please contact school so that we can arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Beer
Headteacher