

June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We will be teaching RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) during the week beginning Monday 19th June 2023.

As from September 2020, Relationships and Health Education is now compulsory in primary schools. You can read the DfE guide for parents here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools> The DfE also strongly encourages primary schools to deliver sex education to help prepare children for their transition to secondary school.

At our school, we are using the leading children's health and wellbeing charity, Coram Life Education (CLE) to support us in meeting these legal requirements. We do this by using Coram Life Education's online SCARF teaching resources. More information can be found on their website: www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk

Research shows that not delivering this vital education puts our children at greater risk of poor mental health. Current government Sex and Relationships Education guidance also states that children should learn about puberty before they experience it. We also know that RSE has a protective factor when it comes to safeguarding children. 1 in 20 children are sexually abused and 1 in 3 of these do not report this to an adult. Sexual abuse can happen to any child; the best way to safeguard children is to ensure that they receive information on naming parts of their body, knowing the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch, and having the skills and confidence to find and talk to a trusted adult to report any abuse.

Research now shows that children with better health (including mental health) and wellbeing are likely to achieve better academically. By learning about positive relationships, respect for themselves and others, and behaving appropriately and safely online, they are better able to enjoy their friendships and therefore focus more at school.

There is sometimes a concern that RSE in school might promote sexual experimentation or cause confusion about an individual's sexuality. Research on quality Relationships and Sex education in the UK by the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles team consistently shows that men and women who reported that *lessons at school were their main source of information about sex* were more likely to have started having sex at a **later age** than those for whom parents or other sources were their main source.

I have attached the learning journey so that you can see what will be covered in each year group. We recognise that parents play a vital part in their child's RSE, and we encourage you to discuss these themes with your child at home as well. If further advice or support is required during RSE week, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher about any concerns or questions that arise.

I will be holding an open parent consultation on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 3:45pm in Class EA where I will share more details about the content of the lessons, the learning journey across the school and the resources that will be used. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask any further questions. The meeting is for adults only as we will be discussing things that may not be age-appropriate for the children.

Yours sincerely



Ellen Keep
Personal Development Learning Lead Teacher