



# Ruardean Church of England Primary School

*Love of learning – Love of life – Love of one another*

Thursday, 18 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **RE: Statutory Changes to Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)**

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education (DFE) has announced changes to relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) following nationwide consultation. These changes need to be in effect by the summer term, when all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. We are keen to share what we are planning with you and understand your views on it.

The main change is that RSHE, or PSHE (physical, social and health education) as it's also known, has largely become a compulsory, foundation subject so it is now part of the National Curriculum which all schools need to follow. However, the sex education element at primary school is **not compulsory**. Within the statutory guidance document for RSE and Health Education, the DfE encourages schools to deliver age-appropriate sex education if they feel their pupils need this information. At our school, we believe children should understand the facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school. We therefore provide some non-statutory sex education, covering the processes of reproduction and birth as part of the human life cycle; how babies are conceived and born (Year 3/4) and how human reproduction and conception occur (Year 5/6).

Where we cover this in the summer term (see below), parents will have the option to withdraw their child/ren from this by submitting a written request to the Headteacher.

We have always taught RSHE to our children at Ruardean C of E and continue to use resources and guidance based on The PSHE Association (DFE recommended) and GHLL PINK (Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning) RSE Programme.

This is part of our wider programme of personal social and health education (PSHE) which includes lessons throughout the year on themes like anti-bullying, healthy friendships, diversity, keeping our bodies fit and healthy, ways to look after our mental health, keeping safe and being kind on line and many more. Our aim is to carefully build on children's understandings of these things each year.

As part of our parental consultation process, we invite you to have a look at our [new draft RSHE policy](#). We are keen to work with you as much as possible in discussing how RSHE is delivered at Ruardean C of E. There may be questions or queries, which we hope you will raise with us. While most of our RSHE is required National Curriculum content now and we are unable to remove any of it, we do want to take on board feedback around how it is taught here and share information with you.

Please take the time to read our draft policy ([click here](#)), complete our online survey (which will be sent out on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**) and read the attached information below which outlines the statutory and non-statutory content. Our website shares our new draft policy, which we would really appreciate your feedback on before it comes into effect in the Summer Term.

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As outlined above, we will be using resources from the [PINK curriculum](#) from Gloucestershire County Council alongside objectives and resources covered through our Twinkl Life PSHE scheme. The majority of the teaching will focus on the building of positive, safe relationships and will reinforce life skills to support this. All classes will have teaching around personal hygiene and personal responsibility. The children have an opportunity to ask questions in either year group. You may find that your child asks questions about some of the things they have discussed. Below is a brief overview of the content covered:

**Reception:** will learn about humans at different stages of the life cycle. They also learn about personal responsibility and people who help us. (**statutory** content)

**Year 1/2:** will learn about life cycles of humans and animals and the changes that occur when we grow. They will learn about the similarities and differences of body parts. They will learn to name the main parts of the body including external genitalia (e.g. vulva, vagina, penis, testicles) (**statutory** content)

**Year 3/4:** will learn to identify external genitalia and internal reproductive organs in males and females. They will discuss similarities and differences between the reproductive organ. They will learn the processes of reproduction and birth as part of the human life cycle; how babies are conceived and born. (**non-statutory** content) They will discuss changes that occur as they go through puberty and the importance of personal hygiene and looking after our changing bodies (**statutory** content)

**Year 5/6:** will learn about the emotional and physical changes that take place during puberty. They will understand there are different relationships and learn about loving and respectful relationships. (**statutory** content) Year 6 learn about the facts of the human lifecycle (**statutory**), including sexual intercourse (**non-statutory**). They will also learn about positive body image and stereotypes.

As part of the curriculum, we will also teach children how to keep safe from abuse. This includes lessons surrounding 'Keeping privates private'. We will be following the NSPCC resource of Let's talk about PANTS using the friendly dinosaur 'Pantosaurus'. The resource, which includes a video and links to games and further information, can be found via this link:  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

If you have any further queries about what will be covered in these lessons, or would like to view the planning and resources, please get in touch.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from the **non-statutory** SRE lessons if they so wish, with the exception of those parts included in the National Curriculum. The DfE has developed a leaflet for parents and carers about SRE, which can be viewed [here](#).  
If you are unable to view the leaflet, please ask for a copy at the school office.

Yours sincerely



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