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12th March 2020

This consultation begins on Friday 12th March 2021 and will close on Friday 26th March 2021.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a part of your child's educational experience at Wickham Church of England 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 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 in September 2020 and all schools are required to comply with the updated requirements from the start of summer term of 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 Education, along with Health Education, became statutory, and these now form part of the National Curriculum. For Secondary schools, Sex Education also became 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 draft 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 and FAQs which is on our website.

As school community, we are currently in unprecedented times which makes it a little more challenging to consult with you. To help you understand the curriculum requirements, I have placed information on our website which I would encourage you to read. Part of this is a presentation for parents which I would ordinarily have shared with you in person, and another sheet which aims to respond to the questions that I anticipated might be asked. On our website (in 'News and Events'), I have included:

- A PowerPoint presentation for parents (saved as a PDF)
- Our proposed draft Policy for Relationships, Sex and Health Education
- FAQ document
- DfE guidance that outlines statutory requirements
- A link to a consultation questionnaire (or [click here](#) to access)

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process once the consultation process is complete. Once we have considered all the feedback, the finalised Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be uploaded to the school's website.

I hope this letter and information on the school website goes some way to answer any questions you may have. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Cutter', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Graham Cutter
Headteacher