



9th of November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: RSHE Curriculum - Update

As you may already be aware, in line with the RSE Implementation Update from 1st of September 2020, Relationships Education, Health Education and Relationships and Health Education will still be compulsory. However

From 1 st September 2020 to the end of the Spring Term 2021	Following an assessment of preparedness, schools should commence teaching as soon as practically possible or use the time to prepare to deliver the new curriculum. This includes engaging parents on their policy as well as planning their curriculum provision.
By the start of the Summer Term 2021	All Schools should have begun teaching the subjects.

In line with Statutory Guidance, parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education or Health Education in Primary School or Secondary school. Parents still have the right to withdraw their child from primary school classes which address sex education, other than elements which are part of the National Curriculum Science. At Secondary school level parents will be able to withdraw their child from sex education up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. However, we would urge any parents and carers considering withdrawing their child from these lessons to consider what is being taught, how it is being taught and how important this education is for all children. A withdrawal form is included in our Draft RSE policy but we have also included an electronic form on our website

(<http://www.mayfield.bham.sch.uk/parents/relationships-sex-education-consultation>).

To enable you to identify what your child will be taught across different Key Stages but also across different curriculum milestones please visit the school's website and refer to the **Get Real Curriculum Framework (especially the Social and Emotional Development Strand/ SED)** as well as the **SED Curriculum Overview KS1-KS5**. All teaching in SED takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values. A variety of opportunities are provided for pupils to ask questions to further their understanding and to find out more about what may affect them personally.

Curriculum map themes cover a wide range of the social and emotional aspects of learning, provide pupils with essential education on safeguarding issues, and develop pupil's awareness of how and when to ask for help and support. Themes are revisited across the different curriculum milestones and Key Stages to enable children to recall and build upon previous learning. Ground rules are also revisited at the start of every lesson, allowing pupils to respond in a safe and supportive environment.

In order to ensure pupils are well-prepared, 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. We aim to teach

children about puberty within the upper KS2, however depending on the individual needs of students this may need to be addressed earlier. **Human reproduction is the only aspect of puberty at KS2 parents have the right to withdraw from as puberty work is part of the Statutory Health Education.**

We believe it is important to work in close partnership with parents and carers and we will hence continue to communicate what is being taught when, as well as highlight any further changes to our curriculum offer. We will also provide any further reading or support for any parents and carers wishing to discuss the objectives taught with their children at home.

We would like to take this opportunity to also thank parents that have responded to our initial parent consultation process. If there is any part of the curriculum that you have concerns or queries about, please do speak with your child's class teacher in the first place. To give you an insight of the process followed in terms of addressing parent queries please also refer to the **Parent Query Flowchart for Parents** which is also accessible on our Web site.

We have also included for your information **a list of useful PSHE websites** which we will continue to be updating.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Theodora Papaspyrou
Assistant Head Teacher