



LITTLETOWN PRIMARY ACADEMY and NURSERY

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February 2020

Changes to Sex and Relationships Education

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are excited to share information with you regarding our new PSHE/RSE (Personal, Social and Health Education/Relationships and Sex education) curriculum. You may be aware that the Department for Education has announced the Relationships and Health Education elements of this subject will become compulsory within Primary schools from September 2020.

Secretary of State:

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

In Primary schools, we want the subjects to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy.

(DFE Relationships, Sex and Health Education 2019)

This new legislation has been driven by the desire to parent children and young people and support them to be happy, healthy and safe in their relationships and growing up, it is fully inclusive of the Equality Act 2010; celebrating diversity and respecting relationships including LGBT+.

Presently at Littletown

In the Early Years Foundation Stage we teach the prime area of PSED (Personal, Social, Emotional Development). We currently follow the PSHE Education scheme of work from years 1-6 which is non compulsory. Science within the National Curriculum (compulsory) is taught alongside our sex education units of work which presently parents have the right to withdraw their children from. This is in line with our school policy and curriculum overview - both available on the school website.

We are presently an 'Early Adopter' school for the new RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) and Health programme, which means we have been able to attend National Conferences led by the DFE to become fully informed of their decisions and the legislation. We have been able to network with other 'Early Adopter' schools and share best practice as well as researching a range of RSE resources.

After researching accredited teaching resources we have decided to implement a PSHE scheme of work and teaching approach, which includes the new compulsory RSE and Health Education, called 'Jigsaw'. The teaching staff have recently received training, the children have been introduced to some of the Jigsaw elements in assemblies and will continue to do so ready for whole school implementation in the summer term.

April 2020 at Littleton

It is of fundamental importance that we consult with you, the parents/carers, to ensure we engage you in this process of reviewing our policy and sharing our curriculum practice. We recognise, as a school, the importance of strong, constructive and open conversation with parents in the education of your children. It will ensure everyone understands what is being taught, when and how, helping develop a shared set of values between parents and school. Crucially with these subjects, it can help parents to understand how they can support what their child is learning in school with their own approach at home.

Nationally from September 2020

The Department for Education statutory guidance makes it very clear to Primary schools that **from September 2020 Relationships, and Health will be compulsory parts of children's education and there will be no right to withdraw from relationships education, the right to withdraw will only apply to sex education not included within the science curriculum.** Furthermore, within any wish to withdraw a child from this education, a meeting with Principal or Vice Principal is required as the DFE do recommend children are taught sex education and withdrawal from this has long been regarded a risk indicator or child protection concern.

September 2020 at Littleton

All year groups will follow the Jigsaw comprehensive PSHE, RSE and Health Education scheme of work from Nursery to year 6. The scheme fulfils all of the requirements for the statutory Relationships and Health Education curriculum, as announced by the DFE, it provides a spiral and progressive comprehensive programme in which the statutory elements sit and are embraced.

The scheme will be taught in weekly lessons by familiar teachers to the children. All year groups will follow the same units (age appropriate) throughout the year, with each new unit being launched in an assembly. Units last a half term. Parents will be notified (as they currently are) of the sex education lessons outside of the relationships and health education and science curriculum prior to them being taught to ensure they have the opportunity to come in and discuss any preferences to withdraw their children from these lessons with the Principal or Vice Principal.

Curriculum Units:

Being in my world
Celebrating difference
Dreams and Goals
Healthy Me
Relationships
Changing Me

Next steps at Littletown Consulting with Parents

We would like:

- All parents/carers to have the opportunity to read our updated policy which defines Relationships Education, sets out the subject content, describes how the subject is monitored, includes why parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from relationships and health education , describes how the policy will be accessible to all SEND children and the requirements regarding law – eg the Equality Act 2010.
- All parents/carers to have access to the RSE and Health curriculum overview
- All parents/carers to have access to the Jigsaw information booklet for parents.
- All parents/carers to have the opportunity to gather further information and/or share their views.

Please look out for the PSHE/RSE and Health policy and information for parents/carers leaflet being emailed out to you during the Summer Term. After you have received and read through these documents we will send out a request for your views on this new legislation and its implications for your children at Littletown.

If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812593/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

Yours Faithfully,

Michala Hawkins and David Perkins

Vice Principal and Principal