

# KINGSMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs J Warren



31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may have heard, the government has mandated that Relationships and Health Education (RHE) is now to be covered as a compulsory subject in all Primary Schools, and that Relationships, Health, and Sex Education (RHSE) in all Secondary Schools. We are writing to let you know that we are currently reviewing our policy and curriculum over the next few weeks, and your engagement with this is being sought.

As part of your child's education at Kingsmoor Primary School, we already promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. This is the curriculum that gives children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential. Some age-appropriate Sex Education has always been taught in year 6 (parents are notified before these lessons).

The new RHSE curriculum will be prioritised and bolstered, topics specifically covering the statutory requirements of:

**Relationships Education** • families and people who care for me • caring friendships • respectful relationships • online relationships • being safe

We will teach the concept of (and legislation protecting) equality and protected characteristics – this means diversity in families, friendships and relationships will continue to be normalised and integrated in our teaching and learning. The unifying value is that all relationships and friendships are respectful and caring. We challenge all forms of discrimination and bullying.

**Health Education** • mental wellbeing • internet safety and harms • physical health and fitness • healthy eating • facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco • health and prevention • basic first aid • changing adolescent body

As part of RHSE, all Primary Schools are encouraged to introduce non-statutory, age-appropriate **Sex Education** topics, which are carefully chosen, and carefully introduced, to protect pupils from harm and to equip them to make positive choices about their emotional and social well-being, health and relationships, prior to moving onto secondary school. Schools, along with parents and healthcare professionals, are very important sources of information about sex, intimacy and relationships; research has showed that both pupils and parents value this education.

We are keen to work with our parent/carer community, as valued members of our school community, in our planning to teach this. It is clear that if we work together, our children and young people will flourish.

This is the timetable for this and the events we would like to draw your attention to, as part of our engagement with you, are:

1. For some time already, the Governors and Staff have been drafting a RHSE policy. This document will outline our school values, our intended approach to the subjects and the topics we aim to cover through the key stages
2. Today, 30<sup>th</sup> March, we have published our draft RHSE policy on the school website: <https://www.kingsmoorprimaryschool.co.uk/rhse-survey.html>
3. Here you will also find a link to a Parents/Carers' survey where we welcome feedback and suggestions you have on this policy and curriculum (be reassured, you do not have to read all of the policy to be able to answer the survey questions – you may still have valuable input to make even if reading a long policy isn't you!). The survey will be open for 3 weeks – please reply by 20<sup>th</sup> April
4. After this, we will be collecting responses and considering your suggestions, before finalising the policy
5. In May, we will be inviting parents and carers to attend an online webinar where we will present our plans more fully, there will be a limited opportunity to discuss questions through the chat
6. We expect that the final policy will be published on our website at the end of May 2021

N.B. During this consultation process Miss Rundle (RHSE lead), Rachel Chorley (Education Governor Chair) or Mrs Warren (as Headteacher) will be available to discuss any particular concerns with parents. Please contact the school office by phone or email to arrange this.

Whilst we can assure you that our planning and delivery will be carefully and responsibly considered, with an age-appropriate curriculum for each year group, and we do hope that all families, parents and carers will be happy and supportive of our plan. The policy has an appendix of the Sex Education curriculum for each year group (appendix 3 near the end of the policy) – please be reassured this may be triggering all sorts of worries about your children being too young for “sex education” but the content is very age appropriate and will only answer questions they will seek the answers to elsewhere.

It is also important, however, to inform you of your right to withdraw from the non-statutory elements of Sex Education. Having been fully briefed and regularly updated as your child moves through the school, you are allowed to withdraw your child from these lessons (see the last appendix in the policy). You will be invited to attend a meeting with Mrs Warren to discuss your concerns prior to the withdrawal being granted. The full details are in the policy.

This link is GOV.UK short guide for parents on the new RHSE policy:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/907638/RSE\\_primary\\_schools\\_guide\\_for\\_parents.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907638/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf)

Please view our draft RHSE policy and **provide your feedback by 20<sup>th</sup> April** by visiting our website here: <https://www.kingsmoorprimaryschool.co.uk/rhse-survey.html>

We are excited to embark on this journey with you together and will continue to put the children's welfare, safety and personal development at the heart of all our policy, plans and activities.

With best wishes,

Mrs Warren, Headteacher

Miss Rundle, RHSE Curriculum Lead

Rachel Chorley, Education Chair