



SOUTH HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Building Character, Learning Together'

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Dear Parent/Carer

Relationship and Sex Education Consultation

The Department for Education (DFE) has recently announced changes to relationships and sex education (RSE), which become statutory for all schools from September 2020. As a result of these changes, we are currently changing and reviewing our current PSHE scheme of work and policy to ensure that our provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural background
- Special educational needs and/or disability

The new DFE guidance encompasses the following topics:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families and people who care for us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring friendships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful relationships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet safety and harms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical health and fitness 	

Our proposals for our new scheme of work and policy is that these elements are covered across the following areas, (which are all part of our PSHE provision):

Personal, Social and Health Education – We will continue to have a bespoke PSHE programme, which is designed and tailored to the needs of our pupils/school community. Our PSHE focuses on teaching children how to be successful citizens and focuses on promoting wellbeing, promoting 'British Values' and to reinforce all elements of our school ethos: 'The South Hill Way'.

Relationship education – Relationships education (RSE) will primarily focus on teaching the fundamental building blocks of positive relationships to ensure pupils know what a healthy relationship looks like; where they are valued and where equality exists; and to also ensure all families and individuals are 'represented' and 'seen'.

Health education – Health education will focus on understanding how to keep our bodies healthy and what it means to have a healthy lifestyle to ensure children can be healthy adults and make good choices later on in life.

Science – As well as following the national curriculum, Science will also incorporate lessons on reproduction, puberty, the life cycle and will cover menstruation (Year 4 onwards).

Drugs education – Drugs education will teach children the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

Sex education – Sex education will be taught to our oldest children in Year 6 and will teach conception. This element of the new framework is not compulsory but, we believe, is essential for the health and wellbeing of our pupils. Parents will have the right to opt their child out of this part of the PSHE curriculum only.

Other subjects – Other elements of our PSHE programme will be taught through subjects such as Computing (where children will learn about internet safety) and PE (where children will learn about the benefits of exercise and being healthy) will be reinforced, as well as teaching using opportunities throughout the school day to reinforce key concepts.

Resources

We will be using our own bespoke PSHE scheme to teach the citizenship elements of PSHE and have invested in a scheme called 'The Christopher Winter Project', which we believe is the best scheme to deliver the relationship, sex and drugs elements of the new framework. All lessons will be taught by South Hill teaching staff.

In the news

You may have seen reports on the more contentious issues around these new guidelines in the news. We believe that much of the new content around 'Relationships and Sex Education' is a subject best taught to primary aged children by parents in the home and that you are best placed to decide how and when to discuss these with your child. Children are naturally curious and ask sensible and relevant questions in class, particularly when discussing relationships. Where appropriate, Teachers will try to answer any contentious questions in an age appropriate way, but will direct the children to ask further questions at home. We do intend to ensure our pupils understand that there are many different types of families, including same-sex couples, and we will ensure children are educated to ensure they do not discriminate against anyone because of their gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability. These are the 'protected characteristics' outlined in the Equality Act, 2010 (England).

We are proposing that we do not directly teach the topics 'Sex for pleasure' or 'Masturbation'. We trust our community to discuss these issues at home at an age-appropriate level, as well as them being covered in secondary school.

How can you help?

It is essential that we all work together on this issue so that our PSHE policy (including RSE) reflects the views and beliefs of our school community and, for this reason, we want to hear from children, parents, staff and governors to inform our choices. Last half term, we carried out a consultation with our staff about the new framework. Now, we want to hear from you.

Our proposed policy and whole school overview (which informs parents of what we are proposing to teach in each year group) can be found attached to this email.

We would like as many parents as possible to:

- Fill out the following survey to let us know what you think:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CQXGQGC>
- Or contact Mrs Farmery directly using, on this occasion, her personal work email address to express your views. Although our communication policy does ask parents to send emails via the school office, we believe that it may be more comfortable for parents to contact Mrs Farmery confidentially- due to the nature of this consultation, using: mrs_farmery@southhill.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Farmery will then work with governors and our school leadership team to look at all of our parental responses to ensure that our policy is reflective of the views within our school community. Following this, we will write to you again to update you on our final policy.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Farmery
Assistant Headteacher