



## *Two Village C of E Primary School*

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Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Relationships, Sex and Health Education Consultation**

As a part of your child's educational experience at Two Village 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 and young people 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 announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes were due to come into effect from September 2020, however, due to COVID 19 schools have been able to delay this until the summer term 2021. All schools are required to comply with the updated requirements. Further information on these 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, this term, Relationships, along with Health Education, will be statutory, and form part of the National Curriculum. For Secondary schools, Sex Education will also become 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.

We started reviewing our RSHE Policy last year and had planned a meeting with parents last March, which was cancelled due to the school closure. Since then, the delay to introduce the new requirements has enabled us to ensure that we feel that our RSHE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

Age

Physical and emotional maturity

Religious and cultural backgrounds

Special educational needs and disabilities

At Two Village we have used a resource called Jigsaw for several years to teach PSHE. Designed as a whole-school approach, Jigsaw provides a detailed and comprehensive scheme of learning for ages 3-16.

It is a spiral, progressive scheme of work which aims to prepare children/young people for life, helping them really know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in this ever-changing world. Having used Jigsaw already to teach PSHE, we are pleased to be able to continue using this scheme, which has been updated in line with the new DfE requirements, to teach RSHE. We have therefore planned our curriculum for RSHE around our use of Jigsaw and the units of work within this.

As a Church of England school, we also aim to make links between our teaching in RSHE to Christianity and will aim to do this wherever possible. Our approach to teaching about healthy relationships will be underpinned by the Biblical phrase *'love your neighbour as yourself'* (*Matthew 19:19*) to support us in sharing with the children the importance of loving ourselves, loving others around us and then forming a loving relationship with a partner which may lead to the privilege of becoming parents.

In order to finalise our RSHE Policy and curriculum, we are consulting with parents/carers this half term. The consultation period will run from **23<sup>rd</sup> April until 7<sup>th</sup> May**. Whilst we are sure that there will be differences of opinion about what is taught and when this should be taught, we hope that consulting with you will help you to understand how we would like to teach RSHE, as well as helping us to hear and understand parents' views, which may help us to make decisions about when and how certain content is covered.

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. However, we are keen to hear the views of parents/carers and consider any adaptations that we may be able to make. The right to withdraw children from some lessons is explained within the policy.

As we have not been able to hold a meeting, as planned, to share our RSHE curriculum and how it will be taught, alongside our RSHE policy we are sending out an informative leaflet about the DfE requirements and some information about Jigsaw. Miss Hazell, our RSHE Lead, and I will also be holding an online question and answer session on Zoom on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm so that parents/carers can ask any questions that they may have about RSHE. If you do find that you have any questions, please follow the link that will be shared on Class Dojo and join the session on the day. You are free to drop in and out as you wish.

If you do not have any questions but do have some views that you would like to share about our RSHE curriculum/policy, we would welcome you to email the school office, using the word RSHE in the subject line, by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

As this will be the first year in which the new RSHE curriculum will be taught at Two Village, we will be regularly reviewing and refining our curriculum and policy over the next few years to ensure that it best meets the needs of our children. Any changes may be informed by evaluations of the curriculum made by staff and pupils, further consultation with parents, regularly seeking pupils' views, in addition to training and research carried out by Miss Hazell or other members of staff. The policy will be reviewed annually and any changes that we may make to our curriculum or policy will be shared with parents.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to finalise our RSHE curriculum and policy.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Natasha Bennett

Headteacher