

## **PSHE and RSE Policy and Consultation 2020**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a part of your child's educational experience at Bilton, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive 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 has announced changes to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) following nationwide consultation. These changes will come into effect from Summer Term 2021 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. The statutory guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education> and a summary of the objectives that we legally must teach is attached as an appendix on our PSHE and RSE Policy which is available on the school website and has been emailed to all parents.

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, from Summer Term 2021 Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education (HE) will be statutory and form part of the National Curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure 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

Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our decision on when and how certain content is covered, and enable us to reach a general consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would your views on:

- Our draft policy for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (PSHE and RSHE)
- When and how certain content within this subject is covered.

What is taught is ultimately a decision for the school and schools are legally required to teach the National Curriculum. However, for certain aspects of Sex Education (those that go beyond the objectives outlined in the statutory guidance), parents do have a right to withdraw. The right to withdraw children from Sex Education lessons is explained in the draft Policy which accompanies this letter. As this is only taught to Year 6 pupils in the Summer term, in the weeks leading up to the lessons, we will inform parents about what will be taught and how; and remind parents of their right to withdraw their children and how to go about this.

The current situation with COVID19 makes it challenging to consult with parents. To help you understand the curriculum requirements, we have emailed the following information out (and all documents will be available on the website):

- An outline of our PSHE curriculum (with RSE objectives highlighted).
- Our draft Policy.
- DfE guidance that outlines statutory requirements.
- A Powerpoint presentation that outlines the changes.

In addition to this, we will also run a **PSHE/RSE Consultation meeting over Zoom on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 17:30**. This gives time to read through all relevant information beforehand. Further reminders and a password will be sent for the meeting in due course. During the meeting, you are encouraged to ask any questions and hopefully give you a further insight into how PSHE and RSE will be delivered at Bilton.

If you have questions or queries that you would rather ask before the meeting (or instead of during the meeting), then please contact school by phone, email, or fill in the box titled 'Questions or queries relating to the PSHE and RSE policies and curriculum' at the end of this letter.

**Please can all parents put an x next to each statement on the next page, sign underneath and return the signed form to school. If there are any statements that you do not agree with, please contact school so that we can explain further.**

Your views are especially important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process. Once we have considered all the feedback the updated PSHE and RSE Policy will be uploaded to the school website.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate me via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Guyan  
PSHE Lead

