

Response to Parent Consultation on Relationships and Sex Education Policy.

As part of our preparations for the implementation of the statutory guidance on Relationships Education, we consulted with parents in the form of a questionnaire. Ten questions were asked. Some required a 'yes' or 'no' answer, while others asked respondents if they agreed or understood 'not at all', 'to some degree' or 'completely'. In total, 35 responses were received. This took place in the Autumn term of 2020-2021.

We would like to thank all of you who contributed. Your responses are valued and appreciated.

Below is a summary of the results of the questionnaire, and a response telling you what we are doing as a school in relation to each question. We were delighted to receive such positive responses to the questions.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments to make about the Relationships Education curriculum, please contact school.

I understand what the new Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum will cover in primary schools.

| What you said | What we've done |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 51% to some degree 26% completely | We are pleased that most people feel confident that they have some understanding of the RSE policy. We are always happy to discuss any aspect of learning, and you can contact Mrs Ingram or Mrs Whitaker (PSHE Lead) to discuss the curriculum. Parents asked to be signposted to summary documents from the government. The government guidance for parents can be found on the PSHE section of our school website. The guidance for church schools from Blackburn Diocese Board of Education can be discussed with the Head teacher. The RSE policy and curriculum overview for PSHE can be found on the school website and includes details of what will be taught and when. |

I would like to know more about what the school will be teaching under the subject of Relationship and Sex Education at each key stage.

| What you said | What we've done |
|--|--|
| 74% of you said you did want to know more about what the school will be teaching, so you can support your child. | The RSE policy and curriculum overview is available on the school website, or paper copies can be obtained from the school office. The whole school overview gives you an idea of what will be taught and when. You will see that the thematic approach allows to cover some aspects of PSHE through collective worship as well as age appropriate content being covered within each key stage. *See response to question 3 below. |

I would like to attend an online workshop about Relationships and Sex Education

| What you said | What we've done |
|---|---|
| 65% said no you would not like to attend, but would some said you would like the information in other ways. | We want our parents to know what we are teaching in all subject areas. Termly curriculum overviews, and weekly class newsletters give parents a flavour of what is going on. The PSHE whole school overview gives more detail and is available on the school website. There are also links to government guidance for parents on the school website. If parents would like to talk about RSE in person, they are very welcome to contact the school. |

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| | <p>Big Talk Education is a useful website, giving advice to parents to support the children in all aspects of RSE.</p> <p>https://www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk/parents/</p> |
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I am pleased that my child will be learning about different aspects of relationships including family structures, friendship, bullying, teamwork, growing up, feelings, stereotypes and consent.

| What you said | What we've done |
|---|---|
| <p>9% to some degree 86% completely</p> | <p>This is a very positive response, and reinforces the belief we have a strong and appropriate curriculum for our children. Our school seeks to enable children to develop through an inclusive programme of teaching that is based on Christian principles, which both respects the human body and seeks to ensure health and well-being.</p> |

I appreciate the benefit of children being taught about relationships and acknowledge the link to safeguarding.

| What you said | What we've done |
|---|---|
| <p>6% to some degree 89% completely</p> | <p>Safeguarding of children in our number one priority at school. The RSE policy and the PSHE policy form part of our approach to safeguarding. Both policies, as well as the safeguarding policy can be found on the school website.</p> |

I feel confident about answering my child's questions linked to relationships and growing up.

| What you said | What we've done |
|--|--|
| <p>29% to some degree 71% completely</p> | <p>There are links to 'Big Education' website on our PSHE and RSE page. This website provides excellent advice and guidance.</p> <p>School can provide age appropriate books for parents to use to help answering children's questions.</p> <p>Parents can contact school and ask for support in answering their children's questions.</p> |

I would like to know when my child is going to be participating in a Relationships Education lesson

| What you said | What we've done |
|--|--|
| <p>75% of you said you would like to know when your child was taking part in a relationships lesson.</p> | <p>The PSHE curriculum takes a thematic approach, with three main themes – Relationships, Living in the Wider World and Health and Well Being.</p> <p>In the Autumn term, the whole school learns about Relationships. The curriculum overview for each year group can be found on the website and details what will be taught at each stage. In the summer term, the whole school covers 'Health and Well Being'. As part of this, growing and changing, and how to keep safe will be covered.</p> <p>Prior to the sex education lessons in UKS2, parents will be contacted and there will be the opportunity for discussion about what will be taught.</p> <p>The curriculum overview for PSHE is available on the school website.</p> |

I think it is important that children are taught and use the correct name for the main external parts of the body (penis/vulva)

| What you said | What we've done |
|---|---|
| 77% of you agreed that children should be taught the correct names. | <p>The RSE policy and PSHE together outline what will be taught at each key stage. We use the correct names for external body parts from EYFS, and this is taught as part of learning about the body. These body parts are named in the same way as head, arm or foot are named correctly. We know that children often have their own names for body parts, but it is important that they know the correct terms.</p> <p>We believe it is important that children know the correct names so that they have a clear understanding of their own body and how to keep it safe. In the event of a child being touched inappropriately, children will have the correct vocabulary to describe what has happened. Similarly through the 'Well being' aspect of PSHE, they will learn those names in the context of them being private and what that means. Learning the correct vocabulary prevents misconceptions and misunderstandings.</p> |

I would like to know more about the right to withdraw my child from Sex Education.

| What you said | What we've done |
|--|--|
| 11% wanted to know more about the right to withdraw. | We are committed to working with parents. Before any Sex Education is delivered in year 5 and 6, parents can discuss any concerns with the class teacher or head teacher. The RSE policy outlines a parents right to withdraw their child from Sex Education and how parents can support their child with Sex Education. |

I agree that Relationships Education should be inclusive and age appropriate to represent the diverse society in which we live (online, peer to peer, family, gender, sexual orientation)

| What you said | What we've done |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 17% to some degree 72% completely | The greatest commandment Jesus taught was to love God and to love your neighbour. Through our PSHE and RSE curriculum we seek to promote inclusion, equality and respect. The curriculum overview shows where this fits in our relationships theme. |

Relationship and Sex Education in a Church of England Primary School.

Some comments were made by parents in relation to how RSE would be taught alongside RE and to maintain the Christian values of the school.

The greatest commandment Jesus taught was to love God and to love your neighbour. Within this commandment is the foundation of the Christian view of relationships. At Arkholme Church of England School our relationship education seeks to live out this command and explore how we can 'love our neighbour' through what we say and do. Our school focusses on the importance of relationships and the qualities and character needed to sustain the best relationships that honour each other whether within a friendship, family relationship or romantic relationship.

Our school seeks to enable children to develop through an inclusive programme of teaching that is based on Christian principles, which both respects the human body and seeks to ensure health and well-being.

In preparing our policy and curriculum overview we have consulted many different sources of advice, as well as statutory guidance. As a Church of England Primary School, we are guided by the advice from The Blackburn Diocese Board of Education.

*The Christian faith has a lot to say about relationships. The perfect example of relationship is found in God, in the persons of the Trinity. This perfect relationship is reflected in the relationship, revealed in scripture, between God and humanity and sets out the basis of all good relationships. The government's shift in the guidance on sex and relationship education to **strengthen the work on relationships** is welcomed by the Board of Education as this work is **a core part of our wider work of helping children and young people to understand ways to live that are fulfilling and life giving**. Very often the message children receive is to be introspective and to concentrate of the value and acceptance of self, "This is me". Whilst this is important, the Christian faith explains that we learn more of who we are and our value through focussing on God and others.*

Blackburn Diocese Board of Education, 2019

The Diocese's advice to schools relating to Sex and Relationship Education can be discussed with the Headteacher. Please make an appointment via the school office if you would like more information.