



Dear Parents/Carers,

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Parent Consultation– feedback

Our Relationships and Sex Health Education (RSHE) consultation closed on Friday 4th June 2021. The purpose of the consultation was to gather feedback on our reviewed RSE curriculum and also share with parents and carers what the curriculum will look like.

I would like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to submit responses and completed the questionnaire. The responses gathered from parents were highly positive about the proposed changes to our curriculum and the overwhelming consensus was that these changes reflected modern family living, and current & respectful thinking. They also provided us with valuable information in order to assist the implementation of the new national guidelines.

Here are the some frequently asked questions about RSE and some asked during our consultation –

Is school the best place for discussions about Sex and Relationships?

We know from surveys of children, that if they do not get the correct and accurate information about sex and relationships from a reliable source, they will find the information from other sources (friends, older siblings, website, TV) which may not be true or age appropriate. The information gathered during the Government consultation found that most children wanted this information and discussion to be provided in school with their teachers so that they could ask their questions in a safe space, and have them answered in an age-appropriate way.

Will these subjects promote LGBT relationships?

No, these subjects don't 'promote' anything, they educate. We are teaching about equality and pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law.

In our school the teaching of LGBT will be delivered through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents. All our planned learning will be taught in an age appropriate way.

Are primary children too young to be taught about gay or lesbian people?

Some children grow up in families with gay or lesbian parents. We want all of our children to know that their family is normal and accepted in school.

Our children will interact with people from different backgrounds we want them to treat all members of the community with the same respect. Just like racism, school has a duty of care to challenge any language that may cause offence to others, whether used intentionally or not.

Phrases such as "that's so gay" or "that's a girls'/boys' toy" when used in a negative manner may unintentionally cause offence to a child or adult. School will challenge this language if it is used by children, parents or visitors as we want everyone to feel welcome.



How do I explain what 'gay' means to my child?

'Gay' is when a man loves a man. 'Lesbian' is when two women love each other. 'Bi sexual' is when a person can love both men and women. 'Transgender' is when a person feels different about the body they were born into; we are all assigned a gender at birth and sometimes when we get older we may feel differently about this.

When two brothers or sisters love each other, it doesn't mean they are gay. This is different kind of love. We may love our mum but we don't want to marry them. Some people grow up and fall in love with a person of the same gender.

Some people say there are 'boy' things or 'girl things' but we say this is not the case and boys and girls can do the same sort of things if they want.

What do I say when my child comes home and asks, 'How can two men love each other?'

People are different. Some men do love other men. In the UK two men or women can get married in the same way that a man can marry a woman.

What do I say if my child comes home and asks, 'how can two men/women have a baby?'

Lots of people have children in different ways, like fostering, adoption or step families. These are all families. They look after one another and love one another so they are the same in many ways.

Some families have a mum and dad. Some families have a mum and a mum. Some families have two dads. Some families have one mum or dad or one grandparent. All families are different and that is okay.

Will my child be given an opportunity to discuss and ask questions in smaller groups as they may feel nervous asking in front of the whole class?

Lessons will be taught as a class and then opportunities for smaller break out groups with the teacher/TA will be planned to give children the space and confidence to ask questions.

Will lessons be taught as mixed classes or will they be split?

We believe that our RSE lessons should be taught as a whole class so all children experience and hear the same information. For example, it is just as important that boys realise and understand that when girls go through puberty they will have a period.

We will however, allow time for smaller breakout groups during/after lessons to allow children time to ask questions etc.

Finally, please note curriculum documents, policy and the consultation information will be available on our school website so that parents and carers are able to view them as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Baczynski

