



Relationships Education – Right to Withdraw Letter for Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may already be aware, Relationships Education became statutory in all primary schools from September 2020. This therefore means that all children will be able to learn about different relationships, different families, growing up, puberty and their changing bodies.

Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education objectives which link to the national curriculum as part of their science learning.

This includes all the information on puberty and how the human body changes. The PSHE Association states,

‘Teaching about puberty before children experience it is essential to ensure that pupils’ physical, emotional and learning needs are met and that they have the correct information about how to take care of their bodies and keep themselves safe.’

Ofsted’s PSHE lead, Janet Palmer HMI, has said:

‘If pupils are kept ignorant of their human, physical and sexual rights... they are not being adequately safeguarded.’

In order to keep pupils safe, it is vital that they learn about puberty before it happens. NHS advice states that puberty can begin as early as 8 for girls and 9 for boys. **In the summer term we will teach children about appropriate touch in Year 3 and 4, about puberty in Year 5 and both puberty and conception will be taught in Year 6.**

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or any part of the Sex Education teaching, other than learning about reproduction and human development within national curriculum science. However, we would urge any parents and carers considering withdrawing their child from these lessons to consider what is being taught, how it is being taught and how important this education is for all children.

Our Relationships Education is fully inclusive to meet the needs of all our pupils. We will cover the following objectives in Year 3 & 4:

- **Name human body parts.**
- **About privacy and personal boundaries, what is appropriate in friendships and wider relationships (including online).**
- **Recognise different types of physical contact; what is acceptable and unacceptable.**
- **How to respond if physical contact makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.**
- **All about keeping something confidential or secret, when this should (e.g. a birthday surprise that others will find out about) or should not be agreed to, and when it is right to break a confidence or share a secret.**
- **How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice.**

In Year 5 & 6 we will:

- **Identify the external genitalia and internal reproductive organs in males and females and how the process of puberty relates to human reproduction.**
- **Explain what puberty means and identify why our bodies go through puberty.**
- **The physical and emotional changes that happen when approaching and during puberty (including menstruation, key facts about the menstrual cycle and menstrual wellbeing, erections and wet dreams).**
- **Where to get more information, help and advice about growing and changing, especially about puberty.**
- **That people may be attracted to someone emotionally, romantically and sexually; that people may be attracted to someone of the same sex or different sex to them; that gender identity and sexual orientation are different.**
- **That for some people gender identity does not correspond with their biological sex.**

In Year 6 we will:

- **The processes of reproduction and birth as part of the human life cycle; how babies are conceived and born.**
- **Explain the terms ‘conception’ (the process of conceiving a child) and ‘reproduction’ (to create another life) including the use of ‘sexual intercourse or sex’**
- **Provide a basic understanding of contraception including common forms of contraception (for example, condoms and the contraceptive pill) and how these can prevent a baby being made.**
- **All about seeking and giving permission (consent) in different situations.**
- **Identify the laws around consent and the age of consent.**
- **Describe the function of the female and male reproductive systems.**
- **Explain the various stages of pregnancy.**
- **Identify the various ways adults can have a child.**

We fully believe that all children should learn about these important life skills in an open, honest and safe environment. We also believe that they should be taught in an age-appropriate and engaging way. We encourage parents and carers to view our Relationships Education Policy and scheme of work. We believe it is important to have a strong partnership with parents and carers and will always communicate what is being taught when. We will also provide any further reading or support for any parents and carers wishing to discuss the objectives taught with their children at home.

Any children who are withdrawn from the Relationships Education lessons will have to be provided with alternative learning in another learning space. For a child to be withdrawn from lessons this must be done in writing, via email to s.silverwood@smat.org.uk

The deadline is Monday 19th June 2023.

If there is any part of the curriculum that you have concerns or queries about, please do come in and speak with Mr Silverwood.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Woollands
PSHE & SRE Leader