



An Ashmole Academy Trust School

Head Teacher: **Mr Chris Tofallis**

7th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Department of Education (DfE) statutory requirements for Relationships Education

From September 2020 schools will have to teach Relationships and Health Education, it will be a statutory requirement.

To gain more information about these changes see the DfE guide for parents here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

The DfE also continues to strongly encourage primary schools to deliver sex education to help prepare children with their transition to secondary school.

Most schools are already delivering very effective Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and the new guidance is simply about ensuring that all children get the information they need and want. The lessons will help children to learn about their bodies including the changes that take place at puberty, and will help keep them safe, so they can form healthy relationships (friendships) with others, now and in the future.

At Ashmole Primary School we are using the leading children's health and wellbeing charity, Coram Life Education (CLE) <https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/> to support us in meeting these legal requirements. We will do this by using their online teaching resources (a comprehensive PSHE Education programme), with possible visits by a mobile classroom and educator to deliver aspects of the Relationships Education and Health Education programme to upper Key Stage Two, in the future.

We know from research that if we don't deliver this vital education, we leave our children at greater risk of poor mental health. We know this because as many as 24% of girls start their periods before the subject is covered in lessons at school, leaving them to agonise over why they are bleeding and how serious the cause might be. We also know 38% of boys experience dreams that lead to waking up with wet underwear, before having learnt about them, leaving them to develop shame and stigma over a natural bodily function that can lead to problems later in life. Current government Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance states that children should learn about puberty before they experience it, but this isn't happening in all schools, illustrating the importance of making this subject statutory in all schools.

We also know that RSE has a protective factor when it comes to safeguarding children. 1 in 20 children are sexually abused and 1 in 3 did not tell an adult. Sexual abuse can happen to any child; the best way to safeguard children is to ensure that they receive information on naming parts of their body, knowing the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch, and having the skills and confidence to find and talk to a trusted adult to report such abuse.

Summit Way, Southgate, London, N14 7NP • Tel: 020 8361 1881 • Fax: 020 3434 0334

E-mail: office@ashmoleprimary.org • Website: www.ashmoleprimary.org

We also know that pupils with better health (including mental health) and wellbeing are likely to achieve better academically. By learning about positive relationships, respect for themselves and others, and behaving appropriately and safely online, they are better able to enjoy their friendships and therefore focus more at school.

There is sometimes concern that RSE in school might promote sexual experimentation or cause confusion about an individual's sexuality. Research on quality Relationships and Sex education in the UK by the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles team consistently shows that men and women who reported that lessons at school were their main source of information about sex were more likely to have started having sex at a later age than those for whom parents or other sources were their main source.

You will have the opportunity to give us valuable feedback regarding our new proposed policy (attached) and in the Autumn Term 2020 we will invite you in, to provide more information and answer any questions you may have regarding what will be taught in PSHE from September 2020. In the meantime, if you have any questions please email the school office and I will be happy to answer them.

We recognise that parents play a vital part in their child's RSE, and we encourage you to discuss these themes with your child at home as well. As the Sex Education part of Relationships Education is not statutory at Primary School, there will be the option to withdraw your child from the lessons covering these. However, we would like you to consider the benefits highlighted in this letter before making a decision. If further advice or support is required or if you have any questions about the programme or would like to view the resources, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher, PSHE coordinator (myself) or the Head teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Pavlakos
EYFS Lead and PSHE Subject Leader