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Gayhurst Community School

Monday 19th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: RSE and Health Education policy and curriculum consultation

As a part of your child's educational experience at Gayhurst, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught 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 September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. Due to COVID 19 schools have been able to delay this until the summer term 2021. The statutory guidance can be found at:

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

The 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 September 2020, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, will be statutory, and form part of the National Curriculum. We have reviewed our RSE and health curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE and health provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities



Executive Headteacher: Louise Nichols | Associate Headteacher: Karen Pedro | Bursar: Cyrilene Malcolm | Chair of Governors: Ian Mullaney

Gayhurst, Kingsmead and Mandeville Primary Schools working in partnership

Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our schools' decisions 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 appreciate your views on our draft policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education and our proposed curriculum.

What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content as schools are legally required to teach the National Curriculum. The right to withdraw children from some lessons is explained within the policy and FAQs which is on our website.

As a school community, we are currently in unprecedented times which makes it a little more challenging to consult with you. To help you understand the curriculum requirements, I have placed information on our website which I would encourage you to read. Part of this is a Presentation for Parents which we would ordinarily have shared with you in person, and another sheet which aims to respond to the questions that we anticipated might be asked.

On our website, we have included:

- DfE RSE End of Year Expectations
- An overview of the Jigsaw RSE programme of study
- DfE RSE primary schools guide for parents
- A PowerPoint presentation for parents/carers
- FAQ document
- Our proposed draft Policy for Relationships, Sex and Health Education
- A copy of this letter
- A link to an anonymous Consultation Questionnaire: INSERT LINK HERE XXX

This can all be found on our school website in the Parents Section (Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Consultation):

<https://www.gayhurst.hackney.sch.uk/page/?title=Relationships+%26amp%3B+Sex+Education+%28RSE%29+and+Health+Education+Consultation&pid=95>

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process later this term. Once we have considered all the feedback, the finalised Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be uploaded to the school's website which will also set out the proposed curriculum.

I hope this letter and information on the school website goes some way to answer any questions you may have. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Nichols
Executive Headteacher