



Parent Consultations

Thank you for all of your responses. Your comments, questions and feedback were extremely valuable and have helped form our final RSHE curriculum. Please see our responses below.

Why was the parent consultation done online and not in person?

During the current Covid-19 restrictions, Public Health have advised schools to continue to follow strict guidelines to keep young people and their families safe. This makes having large groups of parents on school premises very difficult this year. We have provided all of the information, plus the presentation that would have been shown, on our schools' websites. We are also happy to answer individual questions and arrange meetings for any parents who cannot find the answer to their question online.

Will my child learn about sex?

Children in nursery, reception, year 1, year 2 and year 3 **will not** be learning about sexual intercourse. They will be learning about the sexes i.e. the difference between boys and girls' body parts. The concept of sexual intercourse is not introduced until year 4.

Children develop at different stages. Some children will naturally be curious about their changing bodies, the opposite sex and how babies are made at some point in their development. Our priority is to ensure children are properly informed by a teacher at an appropriate age rather than hearing rumours or misconceptions from their peers in the playground. These rumours and misinformation can often lead to behaviour that can be far more damaging.

We do not talk about contraception or sex for pleasure. This will be covered in secondary school.

All parents are welcome to book an appointment to look at the resources and lesson plans prior to the child learning the content.

Can I withdraw my child from lessons?

From September 2020, Relationships and Health Education is compulsory and cannot be withdrawn from. This includes changes to the body, including puberty. Reproduction in mammals including humans is also part of the year 5 science curriculum and cannot be withdrawn from. Sex Education lessons that can be withdrawn from are lessons that explicitly teach human reproduction during RSE or PSHE sessions. It is your right to withdraw your child from the following lessons only:

Year 4 – Lesson 2

Year 5 – Lessons 2,3,4

Year 6 – Lesson 4

Before you are able to withdraw, you are invited to come in for a meeting to look at the resources and lessons plans and discuss which elements of the lesson you would like to withdraw your child from. You can then make a written request to the headteacher who will be able to authorise the withdrawal of your child from these lessons.

There are no lessons in nursery up to and including year 3 that you are able to withdraw your child from, as the lesson content taught is statutory, however, if you are concerned about any content being delivered, we encourage you to arrange an appointment to go through the lesson materials and ask any questions or concerns you may have.

Will boys and girls be split for sex and health education lessons?

After consultation with parents and teachers, it has been decided that the curriculum will be delivered in mixed sex classes. During these sessions, after the main learning, the class may be split into smaller groups of children, which may be same sex groups, depending on the teacher's judgement and the needs of their class. We aim to give all children a safe space and opportunity to explore concepts further and ask questions. We will also be providing extra-curricular drop in sessions run by teachers and learning mentors during this period for children who would feel more comfortable asking questions in smaller groups.

When will my child be taught RSE and Health Education lessons?

RSE and Health Education is taught as part of Jigsaw's 'Changing Me Unit'. There are 6 lessons, which will be delivered weekly over the course of the second half of Summer term. As this is our first year delivering the Jigsaw scheme of work (in previous years we taught RSE using the Christopher Winter Scheme), years 4, 5 and 6 will also be covering content from the previous year group to ensure that there are no gaps in the children's knowledge and to avoid children developing misconceptions.

Will I be informed before the lessons are taught so I can prepare my child at home?

Yes you will. In addition we will be sending parents advice on how to approach the conversations if they come up at home.

I am worried that my child is too young to be learning about sex

We live in a world which exposes children to a world of sexualised images from the adverts they watch, to the lyrics in the music they listen to. There is an increase of online grooming and sexting among children and young adults. Whether we like it or not, this is the world our children are confronted with. Our aim is to educate and inform our young people so they are prepared to deal with these issues and better able to protect themselves from misinformation or from being misled. The Jigsaw curriculum has been purposefully designed to ensure that children are taught sensitive topics at an appropriate age. The concept of sexual intercourse is not introduced until year 4 and only in the context of human reproduction. Sex education continues into secondary school where topics like contraception and sex for other purposes will be introduced, but not in primary school.

What exactly is my child learning in the lessons?

Puberty and Human Reproduction in Jigsaw 3-11		
FS	Growing Up	How we have changed since we were babies
Y1	My changing body	Understanding that growing and changing is natural and happens to everybody at different rates
	Boys' and girls' bodies	Appreciating the parts of the body that make us different and using the correct names for them
Y2	The changing me	Where am I on the journey from young to old, and what changes can I be proud of?
	Boys and girls	Differences between boys and girls – how do we feel about them? Which parts of me are private?
Y3	Outside body changes	How our bodies need to change so they can make babies when we grow up – outside changes and how we feel about them
	Inside body changes	How our bodies need to change so they can make babies when we grow up – inside changes and how we feel about them (animations used – shorter version Female and Male Reproductive Systems)

Puberty and Human Reproduction in Jigsaw 3-11		
Y4	Having a baby	The choice to have a baby, the parts of men and women that make babies and – in simple terms – how this happens (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
	Girls and puberty	How a girl's body changes so that she can have a baby when she's an adult – including menstruation (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
Y5	Puberty for girls	Physical changes and feelings about them – importance of looking after yourself (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
	Puberty for boys	Developing understanding of changes for both sexes – reassurance and exploring feelings (animations used – the Male Reproductive System)
	Conception	Understanding the place of sexual intercourse in a relationship and how it can lead to conception and the wonder of a new life (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
Y6	Puberty	Consolidating understanding of physical and emotional changes and how they affect us (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
	Girl talk / boy talk	A chance to ask questions and reflect (single sex) (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
	Conception to birth	The story of pregnancy and birth (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)

We cannot legally share all Jigsaw resources publicly through our schools' websites, but we welcome all parents to arrange a meeting to have a look at the resources and lesson plans if they are concerned with what their child is learning.

What does the school teach about LGBT+?

We use the Jigsaw PSHE scheme of work and follow their guidance. Please read the following documents for full details:

- Including and Valuing All Children: What does Jigsaw teach about LGBT+ relationships?
- How Jigsaw Approaches Gender Identity

All LEAP teachers are trained in Jigsaw's approach to RSE and Health Education and this approach is understood and implemented across the federation by all our staff.

Why do all of the resources depict white people?

As part of our vision to decolonise the curriculum, at LEAP we believe that all of our children need to see themselves and their families represented in the resources we use. At the time of the launch of the parent consultation, there were only Caucasian skin tones available to us. Since then, we are delighted to let you know, we have been working in collaboration with Jigsaw and Jan Lever (CEO of Jigsaw) to ensure that there are a range of skin tones in their illustrations. LEAP are the first schools to have access to these resources and they are ready to use after half term. These resources are available to view on request.

Do you teach that there are other ways to have a baby other than sexual intercourse?

Yes. We teach that when sexual intercourse isn't possible to conceive a baby, doctors can help people to have a baby perhaps through egg donation, artificial insemination, surrogacy or IVF. Or people can choose to adopt. At this age it is important to clarify in simple terms what they may have already heard about these subjects without burdening them with too much detail. Awareness of the existence of these things is what matters and the chance to correct any misunderstandings they have. Ensuring all children feel included is paramount.

Is there any parent advice or support about age appropriate conversations/advice for children to protect against child sexual abuse, so that a child feels supported and able to report/disclose any abuse or signs of grooming quickly?

At LEAP we teach the children a range of strategies to use if they need to report something, whether it be bullying, a worry or concern, abuse or grooming. One strategy we use that we would encourage you to use with your child at home is the 'Five Finger Challenge'. The child draws around their hand and on each of the fingers they write a grown up they can go to if they need to tell them something. You can also find lots of advice from the following websites:

Support and advice - [Parents Against Child Exploitation \(PACE\)](#) - Offers support to concerned or affected parents including an online advice centre.

[www.parentinfo.org](#) equip parents with the information and knowledge to safeguard children from this abuse.

[CEOP's - thinkuknow](#) offers advice to parents of children at primary and secondary school, including how to talk to your child.

[Barnardo's](#) have produced a list of social media and digital platforms that young people use and explains what each one does and what the risks are.

[Share Aware Guide](#) - a PDF guide produced to empower parents to keep their children safe online.

[Savana](#) is an organisation that offers support services and information to anyone who has encountered or experienced any form of sexual assault or violence at some point in their lives.

Understanding the digital world - Do you know what IWSN means? LMIRL? NO? [The Parent Zone's website](#) has a wealth of information to help families deal with the many difficulties thrown up by the pace of technological change.

[NetAware](#) - a comprehensive guide for parents on over 50 of the top social networks, apps and games that young people use.

[Talking to Your Child About Staying Safe Online](#) - advice and tips from the NSPCC on how to have effective conversations with your children about an array of online topics, including cyberbullying, online porn, and sharing images and information.

[Parental Controls](#) - information on how parental controls can be used to help keep children safe online.

[SelfieCop](#) is an app that automatically forwards photos taken on a child or teen's phone to his or her parents. The aim is to make young people think more carefully about what they are snapping and sharing.