



Chisenhale Primary School



Responses to Health and Relationships Consultation

Dear parents and carers

Earlier this month, we invited parents to take part in an online consultation survey to seek your viewpoints on aspects of the school's Health and Relationships curriculum from the summer term 2021. This was done in accordance with DfE guidance.

Thank you so much to all of those parents who took part: 85 parents responded to the survey. Here are the responses and the school's intended actions.

Q1. Teaching about puberty is a compulsory part of the new science curriculum within Health Education. When puberty is taught, would you prefer that boys and girls are taught separately, where possible?

Responses: Yes- 42.2%
No- 28.9%
Don't mind- 28.9%

Actions: We will teach puberty in a combination of whole class settings and single sex groups. We are following the Jigsaw PHSCE programme and will explore puberty through age-appropriate resources starting from Year 3. This will then be revisited in years 4, 5 and 6 as this prepares children for the changes ahead.

Comments: Parents expressed a mixture of opinions about this question in the comments. Some stressed the importance of separate sessions to avoid embarrassment while others expressed that it is important that boys and girls are aware of the changes the others may be experiencing. As such, we will have whole-class science teaching about human development and separate sessions for discussions and question-answering as appropriate.

Q2. Chisenhale Primary School is keen to be as sensitive as possible to parents' wishes when teaching RSE. Having considered this, we are proposing to only use diagrams, wherever possible, rather than photos or videos. Would you prefer that diagrams be used instead of photos?

Responses: Yes- 50.6%
No- 14.5%
Don't mind- 34.9%

Actions: We will continue to use diagrams as proposed. This allows children to understand the changes that will occur to them in an age-appropriate fashion.

Comments: Some parents voiced their concerns about it being too early for their child to learn about puberty and that they did not want their children to learn this at school. It is important to stress that puberty is part of the statutory science curriculum and there is no right to withdraw your child from this. We will teach it in a sensitive, scientific manner. Both boys and girls start to experience changes to their bodies, associated with puberty, at different times so getting our children prepared for these changes will only support them in understanding what is happening to them and why.

Q3. Chisenhale Primary School is keen to take into account the religious and cultural backgrounds of our families. Do you have any suggestions as to how RSE can be taught with these sensitivities in mind? Is there anything else you would like the school to consider?

Comments: Many parents expressed enthusiasm for the content being taught as long as it is delivered sensitively. Some parents expressed that they wished to see the resources before the teaching takes place. A few parents shared the feeling that they should have sole responsibility for their child's Relationships and Health education. There are several reasons this is a shared school and home responsibility. One is in order to meet our commitment to the government and local authority guidance on covering these topics. The second is to ensure all children experience a full science curriculum including learning about the human body. The third is in order to ensure we meet our safeguarding duty to the children so they have the understanding of their body that they need to keep themselves safe and healthy.

Actions: We will share the content that will be taught with each year group during the consultations and will demonstrate the sensitive manner in which we will be approaching this content.

Q4. As with all aspects of school life, in order to teach these values, we want to ensure that all children, from different types of families, are equally valued and respected. Pupils will therefore be taught about different types of families; including families with a mum and a dad, single parent families, same sex families, children raised by grandparents, adoptive and foster parents. In your opinion, when should this content be delivered?

Responses: Reception- 53.3%
Year 1- 21.3%
Year 2- 25.3%

Actions: We were very interested in the strength of support for a Reception-based approach to this. In accordance with the local authority guidance, this curriculum content will be delivered in Year 1.

Comments: The majority of parents were happy for this to be taught in Reception. In Reception, children will continue to learn about families and this will be rooted in their experiences of their own families. In Year 1, this will expand to include a range of families through the Jigsaw PHSCE curriculum. Some parents expressed a preference for older age groups for this education. Many parents expressed a preference for children to be taught this from the earliest age possible. At Chisenhale, we want to make sure that the children understand and respect the different types of families within the community that they live in and we do not promote or favour one family type over another. One parent summed this up by stating: *'Children from these different types of families will attend school from reception and should not be made to feel any different'*.

Q5. The Department for Education recommends that children are taught about how babies are conceived and born, but with parents having the right to withdraw their children from these lessons if they prefer. If you are happy for your child to have these lessons, in which year group would you prefer these lessons to be taught?

Responses: Year 6- 39%
Year 5- 26%
Year 4- 35.1%

Actions: We will teach about how babies are conceived and born in Year 6, but parents will have the right to withdraw their children from these lessons. We will make sure we inform parents when this topic is being taught so that they are able to express their wish for their child to be withdrawn from the lessons, if that is what they require. Parents also asked that we make it clear in our policy that they have the statutory right to withdraw their child.

Comments: Some parents did not feel this was compulsory in primary school and felt that it should not be taught in primary school. Please remember if you do not want your child to learn this topic you will have the right to withdraw

them. Some parents expressed a preference for an earlier age group than Year 6 but we are going to follow the local authority guidance on delivering this in Year 6.

Q6. Chisenhale Primary School is committed to putting the safeguarding of pupils at the heart of everything we do. The teaching of the names of the sexual body parts will be taught in the context of what is a private body part and that no one has the right to touch a child's private body parts. It also gives children the language and the confidence to report sexual abuse, if it occurs, as all children will use the same language. It is important to try to protect children from sexual abuse as early as possible. In your opinion, which year group do you think the names of the sexual body parts should be taught? Vocabulary includes vagina, vulva, penis, bottom/anus, breasts and nipple. Please note these words will only be used in the context of what is a private body part and that no one has the right to touch a child's private body parts.

Responses: Reception- 42.3%

Year 1- 19.2%

Year 2- 38.5%

Actions: We will teach the names of these body parts in Year 1, in the context of what is a private body part and that no one has the right to touch these parts. We feel that is important that there is a common language and we see this as necessary for safeguarding.

Comments: As the responses show, the majority of parents responding expressed a preference for Reception. Children in Reception will continue to learn the names of the parts of their bodies but will not be introduced to the vocabulary of sexual body parts. Some parents expressed a preference for an older year group. As safeguarding is at the core of our role at Chisenhale we feel is vital to give children the necessary vocabulary to report abuse. Some parents also felt it was important to take the stigma away from these words and introduce them as soon as possible.

Q7. Are there any other topics you would you like the school to cover?

Responses: Female Genital Mutilation- 26.7%

Personal Hygiene - 85.3%

Long Term Health Conditions - 30.7%

Comments: Many parents mentioned the importance of learning about mental health. This is very important to us at Chisenhale and we will continue to support this through PHSCE, through the zones of regulation and through mental health awareness week. Many also mentioned body consciousness and self-esteem. We cover this content in our PHSCE education in the lessons related to puberty.

Actions: We will consider the above topics and use these to inform our provision going forwards. Personal hygiene is clearly important to our parents and this will be taught through our PHSCE and science curriculum as part of the children's puberty education.

Your comments on this survey will be used to shape our policy and curriculum, as you can see from the actions we intend to take.

As a school, we are committed to delivering age appropriate education, which helps keep children safe and secure. These subjects form part of our wider whole school approach to safeguarding every child. Tower Hamlets is a place where we celebrate our differences and see our diversity as a strength. Our borough is a 'No Place for Hate' borough and, as a school, we work to tackle all forms of prejudice and intolerance. We want our school to be a place

that champions this diversity and can make all children and their families feel welcome in the school community and within our borough.

The next step in our consultation process will be some virtual parent information sessions in Week 1 of the summer term. Throughout the survey, lots of you wanted to see the resources that we will be using and these sessions will give us an opportunity to show them to you. Please find the timings of these meetings below:

Thursday 15th April

Year 1 Session	Year 2 Session	Year 3 Session
9:30 am	11.00 am	1.30 pm

Friday 16th April

Year 4 Session	Year 5 Session	Year 6 Session
9:30 am	11.00 am	1.30 pm

We will send the Zoom invites on Monday 12th April

A copy of this letter can also be found on our school website.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this consultation. Your views, as ever, are important to us.

Sharon Taylor

Headteacher