

RE: New statutory curriculum of Relationship Education and Health Education 2020

You may well have seen in the national and local press that certain elements of Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) have become compulsory. These are the areas of Relationship Education and Health Education. These curriculum changes were initially due to be implemented by September 2020. However, with COVID19 affecting all aspects of life, the Department for Education has allowed schools some flexibility as to when these changes are fully up and running. At Forefield, there are parts of the Health Education curriculum that have begun during the summer term. From September 2021, all statutory requirements will be taught to your child.

It is important for each individual family to have an awareness of what is, and is not being taught in these curriculum areas. Therefore, we wanted to give you, our parent body, the correct information about the changes that are coming and the chance to view, not only the new legislation, but also the award-winning resource we have chosen to support your children's learning within these key areas. Mr Croot has been leading this area of the curriculum for many years and has worked closely with Forefield Infants to ensure that resources and content build on the knowledge already gained. You may already be aware of the award-winning '1decision' programme that the children have been using from 4-7.

If you would like to know more about what your child will be learning you can find it by following this link:

[Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91222/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-and-health-education-guidance.pdf)

Teaching Expectations for Relationship Education from page 19

Teaching Expectations for Health Education from page 31

1decision is part of Headway Education and has been kitemarked by the PSHE association – the effective governing body for the subject in the UK – as being a quality assured product. The 1decision resources have been developed over the past seven years and each module has been created by PSHE and Safeguarding experts together with schools, and most importantly children, and can proudly say they are providing resources to schools in 39 counties. As a school we are proud to say we will be using these resources and you may like to find out more about them by visiting their website: www.1decision.co.uk

As part of the curriculum changes, it is important for school to allow a period of consultation with parents when writing and reviewing our policy on Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). Our **draft RSHE Policy** is now available to view on our school website, under the 'Useful Information' tab. If you have any **comments** or **questions** about our draft policy, then please email the school by **Friday, 25th June 2021**. We value your opinions and will respond back to any questions that you may have.

More information about the new curriculum and what topics will be covered by each year group will be put onto our website before the end of this academic year. We will inform you as and when this happens.

Below is some additional information, provided by the Department for Education regarding the new curriculum changes.

Understanding Relationships and Health Education in your child's primary school: a guide for parents

We want all children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, from September 2020, all primary age children will be taught Relationships and Health Education.

These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The world for all young people looks very different from the way it did 20 years ago when this curriculum was last updated – these changes bring the content into the 21st century, so that it is relevant for your child.

Your child's school will have flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.

Relationships Education

Relationships Education will put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including with family, friends and online.

Your child will be taught what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them. In an age-appropriate way, your child's school will cover how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families and people who care for me
- caring friendships
- respectful relationships
- online relationships
- being safe

You can find further detail by searching '**relationships and health education**' on GOV.UK.

Health Education

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.



By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

You can find further detail by searching '**relationships and health education**' on GOV.UK.

Your rights as a parent

The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum. Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up.

Your child's school is required to consult with you when developing and renewing their policies on Relationships Education. These policies must be published online and be available to anybody free of charge.

You can express your opinion, and this will help your child's school decide how and when to cover the content of the statutory guidance. It may also help them decide whether to teach additional non-statutory content. Schools are required to ensure their teaching reflects the age and religious background of their pupils.

If you'd like to know more, please speak to your child's school about what they plan to teach.



Right to withdraw your child

You **cannot withdraw** your child from Relationships Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe.

Your child's primary school can choose to teach Sex Education. If you'd like to know more about this, we recommend speaking to the school to understand what will be taught and when. If you do not want your child to take part in some or all of the lessons on Sex Education, you can ask that they are withdrawn. At primary level, the head teacher must grant this request.

The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.

