

April 2021

Hawthorns School RSE Frequently asked questions -FAQ

What is the difference between relationships education and sex education?

Relationships education is teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.

This starts with children being taught about what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them. From the beginning of primary school, building on early education, children are taught how to take turns; how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect; the importance of honesty and truthfulness; permission seeking and giving; and the concept of personal privacy. Establishing personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical contact — these are the forerunners of teaching about consent. The principles of positive relationships also apply online as children use the internet more frequently.

Sex education ensures that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and have a basic understanding of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science

Why do children need to learn about adult matters so young?

Primary RSE does not teach children about sex. It educates them on the importance of loving respectful relationships along with basic biological information regarding how the body changes during puberty

Can I withdraw my child from Sex education lessons?

Parents only have the right to withdraw children from Sex Education lessons that go beyond the content in the Science National Curriculum. Topics we cover relate and link only to the Science Curriculum and are statutory. This is as follows:

In Key Stage 1, children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They should be introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth but not how reproduction occurs.

In Key Stage 2 (Year 5/6 where appropriate), children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including the concept of reproduction. They also learn about the changes that happen in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning about what happens in puberty.

How can I support my child at home?

School will work closely with parents when planning and delivering sensitive aspects of our curriculum to ensure you know what is being taught and when. This will enable you to discuss issues at home with your child.