

**YORKMEAD SCHOOL (NC)**  
**YORK ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B28 8BB**  
**Headteacher: Mr A Newman-Smith**  
**Telephone: 0121 464 4215**  
**Email: enquiry@yorkmead.bham.sch.uk**



Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Re: Consultation on Our New Relationships and Health Education (RHE) Policy**

From September 2026, all primary schools in England will follow updated statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) for Relationship and Health Education (RHE). In response to this drb Ignite MAT have reviewed the curriculum and policy so we can ensure our provision meets the new requirements and is appropriate for our pupils.

There are some clear changes from the new guidance which include:

- **Stronger online safety focus:** The new guidance places much greater emphasis on online safety, recognising that children may encounter inappropriate content earlier than expected.
- **Clear expectation to use correct body part names:** Using accurate language (including for genitalia), supporting safeguarding and clear communication.
- **Broader approach to personal safety:** Safety now clearly includes everyday risks such as roads, water, railways and fire.
- **More emphasis on emotions, change and loss:** There is a clearer role for RHE in supporting children's emotional wellbeing and helping them understand change and bereavement.
- **Clearer guidance on families and inclusion:** Primary schools are encouraged to include different family structures, including same-sex parents, so all children feel represented.
- **No fixed age limits:** The government decided not to introduce strict age limits. Schools use professional judgement to ensure content is appropriate for their pupils.
- **Stronger expectations for working with parents:** Schools must consult parents when reviewing RHE and be transparent about teaching materials.



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As part of our transition into drb Ignite MAT, we have reviewed the Trust RHE curriculum, inclusive of Sex and Relationships Education (SRE), and have decided to adopt this from September 2026. We feel that the drb Ignite curriculum aligns closely with our current offer, and this enables us to utilise expertise and resources from within the Trust to further enrich our curriculum. We have reviewed all the changes and ensured that the curriculum incorporates all the statutory updates required for September 2026, such as online safety and personal safety.

The curriculum we will be adopting covers all the statutory aspects and we believe is appropriate to the needs of our pupils. Curriculum overviews, as well as individual SRE lesson plans, can be viewed by accessing another drb Ignite school website, which you can find linked here: [Public Notice: Consultation on our New Relationships and Health Education \(RHE\) Policy - drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust](#)

As part of this process, it is important to us that we work in partnership with our families to ensure the policy reflects both the needs of our pupils and the values of our school communities.

Before the policy is finalised, we would like to invite parents and carers to take part in a consultation period, during which you will have the opportunity to:

- Read the draft RHE policy
- View an overview of the curriculum content for each year group
- Share your views, questions or feedback

You can find the draft RHE policy and example curriculum plans here: [Public Notice: Consultation on our New Relationships and Health Education \(RHE\) Policy - drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust](#)

### **Consultation details:**

- Consultation opens: Tuesday 12 May 2026
- Consultation closes: Tuesday 2 June 2026
- If you would like to provide feedback, please follow this link: [drb Ignite MAT Relationships and Health Education Policy Feedback – Fill in form](#)
- Hard copies of this consultation along with large print versions and translations into other languages are available on request from your child's school. Maximum of 2 copies per request or individual



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We understand that RHE is an important and sometimes sensitive area of the curriculum. Our aim is to ensure that pupils receive high quality, age appropriate, learning that supports their wellbeing, safety, and personal development. Your feedback plays a vital role in helping us shape a policy that supports our pupils while respecting the views of our school communities.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to engage with this consultation. We greatly value your partnership and support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Newman-Smith'.

Mr Newman-Smith  
Headteacher

