

Issue focus: Relationship and Sex education

What must Primary schools teach?

From September 2020, Relationships and Health Education are compulsory in all primary schools in England. For primary aged children this includes curriculum content under two headings (DfE 2019): **Relationships Education**; Families and people who care for me, Mental wellbeing, Caring Friendships, Internet safety and harms, Respectful Relationships, Healthy education; Physical health and fitness, Online Relationships, Healthy Eating, Being safe Drugs, alcohol and tobacco, Health and prevention, Basic first aid and **Changing adolescent body**.

The DfE guidance clearly states the statutory requirements, i.e. what children **MUST** be taught by the end of primary school. Health Education includes learning about 'the changing adolescent body' to equip children to understand and cope with puberty. The National Curriculum for Science (also a compulsory subject), includes learning the correct names for the main external body parts, learning about the human body as it grows from birth to old age and reproduction in some plants and animals (which could include human beings). So, Relationships Education, Health Education and Science are compulsory subjects and parents/carers do NOT have the right to withdraw their children from these subjects. It is up to primary schools to determine what is meant by 'Sex Education'. At primary school age, it is usually agreed to mean 'human reproduction', and can be taught within Science.

Our definition of sex education

At Bentley High Street Primary School, we define sex education as:

'An education that promotes an understanding of sexual reproduction.'

We believe children should understand the basic facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school so we intend to continue to teach Sex education through our science curriculum where we will cover the statutory objectives, referring to the provided notes and guidance, covered in year 5:

Year 5 - Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

THIS HAS NOT CHANGED FROM WHAT HAS BEEN TAUGHT IN SCIENCE IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

Jigsaw

Here, at Bentley High Street Primary School we value PSHE as one way to support children's development as human beings, to enable them to understand and respect who they are, to empower them with a voice and to equip them for life and learning.

We include the statutory Relationships and Health Education within our whole-school PSHE Programme.

To ensure progression and a spiral curriculum, we use Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, as our chosen teaching and learning programme and tailor it to our children's needs. The mapping document: Jigsaw 3-11 and statutory Relationships and Health Education, shows exactly how Jigsaw and therefore our school, meets the statutory Relationships and Health Education requirements – this can be found on our school website. <https://www.bentleyhighstreet.co.uk/rshe-parent-info-2020>



Parents right to withdraw

"Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory Relationships and Sex Education" DfE Guidance p. 17

At Bentley High Street Primary School, puberty is taught as a statutory requirement of Health Education and covered by our Jigsaw PSHE Programme in the 'Changing Me' Puzzle (unit), which means parents no longer have a right to withdraw their children from puberty education. We conclude from the DfE Guidance that sex education refers to Human Reproduction. In order to teach this in a scientific context, and knowing that National Curriculum Science requires children to know how mammals reproduce, we have opted to teach this within our Science curriculum, this not within PSHE or Relationships and Sex Education as we believe this is most appropriate for our children.

We are of course happy to discuss the content of the curriculum and invite you to contact:

SMSC leads: Mrs Davey or Miss Kidd

Science leads: Mrs Kenny.

Consultations overview and upcoming dates

In line with DfE guidance we are working closely with parents to ensure they are part of the implementation process. We have held an initial consultation meeting where we went over the changes to the RSE curriculum. The resources shared during this consultation can be found on our school website.

We have a second consultation planned where parents will be shown examples of planning and the draft policy.

Initial Virtual Parent Consultation

Monday 21st September 1pm

Wednesday 23rd September 4pm

Governor Consultation

Monday 1st February

Second Virtual Parent Consultation

Tuesday 2nd March 4pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87925330532?pwd=NnRyM3BXM2gwb1RzU01QTy9vRS9MQT09>

Meeting ID: 879 2533 0532

Passcode: PDi5CE

Friday 5th March 1pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82950305321?pwd=UWYvOWVFOGpaSmcrYTftWHY5cmpUdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 5030 5321

Passcode: iRXUZ8

Resources and contacts



The draft RSE policy, Jigsaw overview and resources published by the DfE can be found on our school website:

[RSHE Parent info 2020 | Bentley High Street Primary School](#)



Doncaster Council's Healthy Learning, Healthy lives provides resources and guidance for parents:

<https://www.healthylearningdoncaster.co.uk/countdown-to-statutory-rse>



Department
for Education

DfE Guidance:

[Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)