

## **New Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) Curriculum Parent Information**

There have been changes to the requirements outlined by the Department for Education (DfE) for the teaching of RHSE, which, due to the disruption caused by the coronavirus, will now take place in the Summer Term 2021.

In preparation for this, we have put together a Q and A sheet which we hope you will find helpful.

### **What are the changes?**

Primary Schools **must** provide the following to all pupils:

- Relationships education
- Health education

### **Will the school engage with parents before teaching these subjects?**

Schools are required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships, Health and Sex Education. This will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered.

At Thurton CE Primary School, we will do this by:

- Signposting parents/carers to our published draft policy online and inviting feedback via an online survey form.
- Organising an annual meeting for Year 6 parents during the Summer Term to view Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) resources.
- Publishing an overview of what is being taught in RSHE each term on our school website.
- Holding annual 'Meet the Teacher' meetings during the Autumn Term where parents/carers can ask questions about the curriculum.
- Having an open-door policy which will enable parents to discuss RSHE with their child's teacher at any time throughout the year.

We will listen to parents' views, and then make a reasonable decision as to how we wish to proceed. Please note that the DfE guidance does state: 'When and how content is taught is ultimately a decision for the school, and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content.'

### **What about Sex Education?**

It is not compulsory to teach sex education at primary school, however, schools can choose to do so. Despite not making the teaching of sex education statutory at primary age, the Department of Education does recommend that it is taught, provided the content is age appropriate.

"Many primary schools choose to teach sex education (which goes beyond the existing national curriculum for science), and we recommend that they do so, tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of their pupils." DfE

### **Will my child be taught Sex Education at Thurton CE Primary School?**

Yes. However, the core topic, 'Conception', will only be taught to Year 6 children.

Parents of Year 6 children will be invited to a meeting prior to the delivery of the topic. This will provide a valuable opportunity for parents to review the resources being used for sex education, as well as consider ways to build on the learning at home. However, if parents have concerns, they have an automatic right to withdraw their child from these sex education lessons.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary level as the DfE believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

### **Does the new Relationships, Health and Sex Education take account of my faith?**

The DfE states: 'The subjects are designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of pupils must be taken into account when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled. Schools with a religious character can build on the core required content by reflecting their beliefs in their teaching.' The DfE has also worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England, in developing these subjects.

As we are a Church of England school, the core of our RSHE policy was produced by the Diocese of Norwich in collaboration with an external national RHSE Adviser.

### **Will my child be taught about LGBT relationships?**

Yes. Pupils will be taught about the society in which they are growing up. RHSE topics are designed to foster **respect** for others and our differences, and educate pupils about **healthy** relationships. At Thurton CE Primary School, we will cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families.

The DfE states: 'Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT content during their school years. Teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist can be done in a way that respects everyone. Primary schools are strongly encouraged and enabled to cover LGBT content.'

### **Where can I find the relevant information?**

On our school website. Please visit our curriculum page and scroll down to find the RHSE section.

Please visit this page on the 1 Decision website to view a clip of the conception video:

<https://www.1decision.co.uk/resources/parent-carer-zone>

*Any resources which do not appear on the school website or on the 1 decision website can be made available during a meeting held in school. Please contact the school office if you would like to organise a meeting.*