



DOVEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL Willows Academy Trust

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Aiming High Together

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes were originally due to come into effect from September 2020, making it compulsory for all schools to comply with the updated requirements. Due to COVID 19, schools have been able to delay their implementation until the summer term 2021, allowing subject leaders more time to design their curriculum in response to the everchanging needs of their pupils. The statutory guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The updated guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. To achieve this, the new curriculum covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and establishing healthy relationships with themselves and others. At Dovedale, we strongly feel that allowing children and young people to learn about the emotional, social, and physical aspects of growing up will provide them with the information, skills, and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

As a result of the new guidance, we have been reviewing our RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) curriculum and policy so that we can be certain that our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and differences.

Whilst we are sure that there will be differences of opinions regarding the RSE curriculum; the content of what is taught, and how this is taught, is ultimately a decision for the school as we have a legal requirement to follow and teach the National Curriculum. Because of this, our consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content but does allow for us to reach a general consensus around how certain content is covered. We appreciate that for some, this will be a difficult concept and therefore parents have the right to withdraw their child from **some** lessons within the curriculum. The right to withdraw is explained with the RSE policy and FAQs which is located on our website.

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As we are currently in unprecedented times, consulting with you is a little more challenging than usual. To help you understand the curriculum requirements we have placed information on our website which we would encourage you to read. Part of this process involves a presentation to parents. Ordinarily, we would have liked to share this with you in person however we have adapted this slightly and created a virtual PowerPoint instead. On our website, we have included:

- The Department for Education guidance outlining statutory requirements.
- Our proposed draft policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.
- An overview of Dovedale's Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Curriculum Map.
- Knowledge Organisers to show some of the knowledge from EYFS through to Year 6.
- A link to an anonymous questionnaire to gather your views.

The listed documentation can be found at <https://www.dovedaleprimaryschool.co.uk/rse/>.

Our parent consultation will begin on **Friday 26th March** and close on **Friday 2nd April**. Please do take the time to engage with the parent consultation. Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this consultation process later in the term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Abbie Bestwick & Zoe Nadin

(PSHE, RSE and RE Curriculum Subject Leaders)

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