



# PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 12th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Consultation in relation to Park Primary RSHE Policy – this consultation begins on Monday 16th November 2020 and ends on Wednesday 18th November 2020**

As a part of your child's educational experience at Park, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. The aim of this is to give children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced statutory changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes will come into effect this academic year and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. The statutory guidance can be found at:- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships. Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them take responsibility for their own wellbeing.

Consequently, beginning this academic year, Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RSHE), will be statutory, and form part of the National Curriculum. This means that we have been reviewing our RSHE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSHE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on the following characteristics:

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

We hope that consulting with you will help to inform our decisions on when and how certain content is covered, and enable us to reach a consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would like your views on the following:

- Our draft policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- When and how certain content within this subject is covered

What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school; however, the right to withdraw children from some lessons is explained in the FAQs.

As we are currently in these unprecedented times, it is much more difficult to launch the consultation in person. To help you understand the curriculum requirements, we will be undertaking a Google Meet session (accessed using your child's login) where parents from each year group will be given a presentation relating to the overall context of the curriculum alongside specific elements of a particular year group.

The dates and times for each year group are as follows:

Reception: Monday 16th November – 10am

Year 1: Monday 16th November – 11:30am

Year 2: Monday 16th November – 1:30pm

Year 3: Tuesday 17th November – 10am

Year 4: Tuesday 17th November – 11:30am

Year 5: Tuesday 17th November – 1:30pm

Year 6: Wednesday 18th November – 10am

In order for us to be prepared, we request that all parents wishing to attend the Google Meet complete a Form stating attendance and answering some questions to inform our discussion. Please sign up using the form below.

[RSHE Consultation Sign Up Form](#)

If you cannot attend the time for your child's year group but would still like to take part in the consultation please complete the sign-up form with any questions not answered on the FAQs.

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process later this term. Once we have considered all the feedback, the finalised RSHE Policy will be uploaded to our website, which will also set out the proposed curriculum.

I hope this letter and attached information goes some way to answer any questions you may have. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sansom

Wellbeing Curriculum Lead

## **DfE frequently asked question SRE Statutory guidance**

Through our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum, we want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe. We want to equip them for adult life and empower them to make a positive contribution to society.

Below, we have explained some of the common misconceptions around the subjects.

Q: Will my child be taught sex education at primary? This is too young.

A: We are not introducing compulsory sex education at primary school. We are introducing Relationships Education at primary, to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will start with family and friends, how to treat each other with kindness, and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships.

Q: Does the new Relationships Education and RSHE curriculum take account of my faith?

A: 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. In developing these subjects, we have worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England.

Additionally, at Park, we have been working with most schools across the borough consulting with faith groups to develop an inclusive and faith sensitive curriculum.

Q: Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary as we believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. At our school, we do not teach any sex education beyond what is outlined in the Science Curriculum up to year 5. In the summer term of year 6, children will be given age appropriate lessons on sex education. Materials will be shown to parents of that year group to allow for parents to make an informed decision, at which point parents will be given the choice as to whether to withdraw children.

Q: Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?

A: A thorough engagement process, involving a public call for evidence and discussions with over 90 organisations, as well as the public consultation on the draft regulations and guidance, has informed the key decisions on these subjects. The consultation received over 11,000 responses from teachers, schools, expert organisations, young people and parents – these responses have helped finalise the statutory guidance. Further to this. As part of our borough-wide organisation, many groups were consulted from many faiths and cultures.

Q: Will my child be taught about LGBT relationships?

A: Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. 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 families when teaching about different types of families.

Q: What support will schools receive to deliver these subjects well?

A: The government is investing in a central support package to help teachers introduce these subjects well and with confidence. This will include a new online service, featuring access to high quality resources, innovative training materials, case studies and an implementation guide, available from Spring 2020. There will also be training available for teachers through existing regional networks, offering opportunities to improve subject knowledge and build confidence. We're working with expert organisations, schools and teachers to develop this support.

Q: Where can I find out more information about what will be taught in my child's school?

A: If you want to know more about what will be taught as part of the new subjects, the best thing to do is speak to us. These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum. Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up. Your child's school will have flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.