



Essendon C of E (VC) Primary School

School Lane
Essendon
Hertfordshire
AL9 6HD

☎ 01707 261209

✉ admin@essendon.herts.sch.uk

Acting Headteacher: Ms Belinda Canham

15th July 2021

Re: Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) consultation

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a part of your child's educational experience at Essendon C of E Primary School, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) that gives children and young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

This year, the Department for Education has made changes to relationships and sex education and the statutory guidance can be found at:

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

The 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, healthy relationships and help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

Relationships and Health Education, is statutory, and forms part of the National Curriculum. Sex Education in primary school will remain non-statutory but it is strongly recommended that it is taught.

We have reviewed our current RHSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our relationships, health and sex education (RHSE) provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

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

As part of this process, the Government requires every school to consult with parents, staff and governors to help inform decisions on when and how certain content is covered.



As part of our RHSE curriculum review, we would appreciate your views on our draft policy for Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE).

What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content as schools are legally required to teach the National Curriculum. The right to withdraw children from some lessons is explained within the policy.

What do I need to do next?

- 1) Please visit the Essendon Primary School website and click the Parent tab in the menu bar – you will then see the RHSE Consultation tab. Under this tab you will find the information about Kapow, the RHSE scheme we have chosen for our school. Read this information and see how the scheme plans the curriculum over the year groups.
- 2) You will also find our RHSE draft policy, please read our RHSE policy and understand how we are going to teach RHSE
- 3) Look at the consultation questions below and then email your response to head@essendon.herts.sch.uk the subject line in the email should be **RHSE policy consultation**.

The Consultation Questions are as follows:

1. Would you like support at home, on how to speak to your child about relationships, health and sex?
2. Are there any changes or additions that you think should be made to the RHSE Policy?
3. Thinking about relationships, health and sex education, what do you believe is the most important subject area that should be taught for different age groups/key stages and why?
4. Thinking about relationships, health and sex education, is there an area that you think should not be taught for different age groups/key stages and why?

The consultation period will run over the summer holidays and end on the 31 August 2021.

Whilst I am sure that there may be differences of opinion about this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Ms Belinda Canham
Acting Headteacher

