



Bolham Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Department for Education announced changes to relationships and sex education (RSE) last year which were due to come into effect in September 2020. Due to the Covid-19, the deadline for all schools to comply with the updated requirements has been extended to the Summer term 2021. As a school we were planning face to face meeting for parents and carers to view material and ask questions. You will appreciate however that this is not possible at the moment, but as a school we still need to consult with parents and carers on the changes to our RSE policy and curriculum.

As a maintained school we have a statutory duty to teach children from Year 1 to Year 6 about aspects of RSE and we need to ensure that parents and carers are clear about what this means for their child. The mention of the words, 'Sex education' can create anxiety for parents and carers and as a school we want to reassure you that the focus of RSE in Bolham Primary School aims to provide pupils with information that is age appropriate, allows them to understand what is happening to their bodies and of course ask questions they are naturally curious about.

As a school we have decided to use the JIGSAW scheme of work to support us in fulfilling this statutory requirement and this term we began trialling some of the units beginning with 'Being me in my World'. The JIGSAW scheme covers issues such as Building self-esteem, Recognising feelings and emotions, Healthy friendships, Differences and similarities between girls and boys and challenging stereotypes, Rights & Responsibilities and Growing and changing.

Throughout the year the RSE and PSHE curriculum will be covered through the topics including Being me in my World, Celebrating Difference (autumn term) Dreams & Goals, Healthy Me (spring term) Relationships and Changing Me (summer term) A focus on Relationships is covered within each topic, with the 'Changing Me' topic covering most of the Sex Education aspects.

As a parent or carer you have the right to request your child is removed from parts of the sex education programme, but that withdrawal of your child would only be considered **for content that is not part of the statutory science curriculum**. Further details of the science curriculum can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study>.

To help you understand what will be taught from September 2020 we have uploaded the policy to our website along with Government guidance and Jigsaw parent and carers guides which give further information about the scheme. Every parent and carer has also been emailed an RSE information pack via Text2parents.

During this period of consultation, the governing body would very much value your thoughts and opinions of this new content and our approach to the teaching of RSE. If you have any questions or comments you wish to make please email admin@tiverton-bolham-primary.devon.sch.uk by Friday 27th November 2020.

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