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Headteacher: Mr. Aaron Wanford MA, B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH

Tuesday, 12th March 2019

Relationships and Sex Education - Parent Information Session

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are endeavouring to further establish and develop the teaching of Personal, Social Health and Citizenship (PSHE & C) within our curriculum. Currently, PSHE & C is non-statutory, but rightly so, we include this within our curriculum because of its significance and importance to children growing up in modern Britain in an ever-changing landscape. You may be aware that the government are set to make PSHE a statutory subject from September 2020, with a specific focus on teaching about healthy relationships.

As part of our PSHE & C curriculum, and alongside our Science curriculum, we are consulting on our Relationships Education Policy, which includes aspects of Sex Education from Reception to Year Six, which we are currently mapping out. The purpose of this is to ensure that all children have the knowledge and the skills they need to build strong and healthy relationships as they grow older. Relationships Education will also likely become statutory as part of the PSHE from 2020.

Why teach Relationships education?

Our children today are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, our children need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. This is why the government will be making Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England. Although Relationships Education will be a compulsory subject, we fully recognise that the content must be age appropriate. It must be taught sensitively and inclusively, with respect for the backgrounds and beliefs of pupils and parents while always with the aim of providing pupils with the knowledge they need of the law.

At Green Ridge, we want Relationships Education to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, both on and offline. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy.

How is Relationships Education taught?

Relationships education starts with pupils being taught about what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them. From the beginning of primary school, building on early education, children are taught how to take turns, how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect, the importance of honesty and truthfulness, permission seeking and giving, and the concept of personal privacy. Respect for others is taught in an age-appropriate way, in terms of understanding one's own and others' boundaries in play, in negotiations about space, toys, resources and so on.

How does Relationships Education link with Sex Education?

At primary level, whilst Relationships education is mandatory, sex education is only statutory for any aspects covered within the Science curriculum (e.g. as part of reproduction and biology). Primary schools have to be clear about their rationale for teaching anything which falls outside of the Science curriculum with their Sex Education policy. We believe that Relationships Education is the fundamental pre-requisite for teaching children about Sex Education, and as such, we are also mapping out areas for this which we propose to include within our curriculum which may fall outside of the Science curriculum.

As such, elements of the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum will likely include:

- Lifecycles
- Body parts
- How to recognise emotions
- Consent
- Respecting other people's boundaries
- Reproduction
- Online safety

As we will be teaching some elements from Reception, we would like to invite you to an informal session as part of our consultation with parents and carers. We hope to outline the details of the RSE curriculum for each individual year group, in order to give you a greater awareness of what your child is going to be taught, when they will be taught this curriculum and what language they may encounter as part of this learning. During the session, we will also discuss how a parent can request that their child is withdrawn from some or all of the sex education delivered.

The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 26th March** at 2.30pm and repeated at 6.00pm. Please do just turn up, via the main front entrance.

If you do have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to come and speak with myself, Mr. Wanford or Mrs. Mackie.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. S. English
Deputy Headteacher