

Welcome to Alfred Sutton Primary School

RHE Parent Consultation April 2021



Misconceptions

- ❖ There are many misconceptions to Relationships and Health Education.
- ❖ It is often misinterpreted as 'Sex Ed' – this can make you think about what you may have learned in secondary school.
- ❖ This consultation is an opportunity to address misconceptions and share what is a statutory requirement and how we deliver it at ASPS.



'Leaders have developed strong relationships with parents [...] so that any additional support that pupils may need is provided' – OFSTED 2018

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Our Ethos

- ❖ We value diversity and foster mutual respect, modelling and inspiring attributes in pupils such as respect, courtesy and honesty.
- ❖ These underpin and inform the relationships we have, between pupils and between adults and pupils.
- ❖ Core Values:
 - ❖ Respect
 - ❖ Resilience
 - ❖ Aspiration
 - ❖ Responsibility
 - ❖ Caring
 - ❖ Compassion

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Aims

The aims of relationships and health education (RHE) at our school are to:

- ❖ Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- ❖ Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- ❖ Create a positive and respectful culture around issues of different relationships
- ❖ Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- ❖ Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of the changes to their bodies and the importance of health and hygiene

RHE should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and within society, thus preparing them for responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Statutory Requirements

- ❖ As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).
- ❖ We are not required to provide sex education although some primary schools may choose to. At Alfred Sutton we have chosen not to include any sex education into our RHE curriculum.
- ❖ We do need to teach the elements of reproduction contained in the year 5 science curriculum within a topic called 'Animals including Humans'. These lessons are a statutory science requirement and therefore children cannot be withdrawn from them.
- ❖ All other areas belonging to the new RHE requirements are now statutory and children cannot be withdrawn from them.

“Pupils are very prepared for life in modern Britain. They have developed a set of values, known as ‘Sutton Six’, which permeate the school’ – OFSTED 2018

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Curriculum

- ❖ Set out in our policy
- ❖ Follows the statutory requirements and guidance from the PSHE association. Very few changes to existing PSHE curriculum.
- ❖ If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.
- ❖ This could include not answering the question at the time and consulting with parents to find an appropriate and agreed answer.

Delivery

- ❖ RHE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum.
- ❖ The learning falls into 2 categories:

Relationships Education	Health Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Families and People Who Care for Me• Caring Friendships• Respectful Relationships• Online Relationships• Being Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Wellbeing• Internet Safety and Harms• Physical Health and Fitness• Healthy Eating• Drugs, alcohol and tobacco• Health and Prevention• Basic First Aid• Changing Adolescent Body

‘British values mean that in Britain, no matter what your background, you can fit in, you can succeed, and you can belong’ – HM Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman

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Delivery

- ❖ These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).
- ❖ Children will be taught that despite different beliefs or differences, respect and tolerance is at the core of developing relationships with their peers.
- ❖ The programme is matched to the pupils' level of maturity. Pupils with special educational needs will be given the opportunity to fully participate in RHE lessons, and a differentiated programme will be provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

'Classrooms are typically studious and calm, and there is a harmonious atmosphere throughout the school' – OFSTED 2018

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Sensitive Issues

- ❖ In all schools by law, the religious background of all pupils must be taken into account when planning teaching of Relationships Education
- ❖ We must still teach sensitive topics as, by law of the Equality Act, we must eliminate discrimination, harassment etc for those who share a protected characteristic. (Relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.)
- ❖ Our approach to handling sensitive issues includes:
 - ❖ Clear policy and curriculum
 - ❖ Training and support for staff
 - ❖ Sample 'scripts' to support teachers
 - ❖ Open communication with parents/carers
- ❖ Remember: we are 'educating children about...' not 'teaching them to...'

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Sample Scripts

Example 'script' on puberty:

“As you start to grow up, your body starts to change (physical changes) and your feelings start to change (emotional changes). This is called puberty. Different people start puberty at different ages, and it can take some time for all these changes to happen. The age at which you start puberty is not important and has nothing to do with the kind of adult you will become. It is ok to have questions or worries about puberty and you can talk about anything that is on your mind with a teacher, parent or with other trusted grown-ups.”

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Sample Scripts

Example 'script' on LGBT and religious backgrounds:

“The majority of people who follow the teachings of (religion) may choose to live in families consisting of a man, woman and children. Some religious people will see this as a preferred way of living. The law in this country allows and respects the right of people to live in families such as this. However, the law also gives people the right to live in other families. You may come across families where two men or two women have chosen to live together or marry and bring up children together. That family is also allowed under the law in this country and we respect the rights of people to live in different families.”

“If we meet children who live in different sorts of families to those we are familiar with, it is wrong to say bad things about them or to bully them. Like their parents and their families, they are entitled to the same respect as everyone else.”

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Communication is Key

- ❖ At Alfred Sutton, we believe in constructive and open dialogue with our school community.
- ❖ Please speak to us if you have any questions.
- ❖ Please respond to our Parent Consultation Survey after watching this video. (via WEDUC)
- ❖ Thank you for your ongoing support for our school community.

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Thank you.

