



MOSSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents / Carers,

The UK Government recently introduced new statutory guidance for all schools, regarding the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (R.S.E) in both the Primary and Secondary sectors.

In response, we have reviewed and amended our current policy and teaching to reflect these new requirements.

The Department for Education (DfE) guidance clearly states the new statutory requirements, i.e. what children **MUST** be taught by the end of primary school.

Health Education is one of these elements; it includes learning about ‘the changing adolescent body’ to equip children to understand and cope with puberty. Both boys and girls will learn about changes to the body of both sexes which occur in puberty.

The National Curriculum for Science (also a compulsory subject), includes learning the correct names for the main external body parts, learning about the human body as it grows from birth to old age and reproduction in some plants and animals (which could include human beings). It also includes the development of a foetus in the mother’s womb.

Relationships Education, Health Education and Science are compulsory National Curriculum subjects and parents/carers **do not** have the right to withdraw their children from these subjects.

All of these topics and knowledge are written in black text in all of the ‘R.S.E Year Group overviews’, which are available on the school website.

However, further optional content is deemed 'Sex Education' and parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from these specific lessons only.

There are only 2 such topic areas within our R.S.E curriculum:

Year 5 – Sexual intercourse and conception.

Year 5 - Having a baby (which shows the birth of a human baby)

If your child is in either of these classes and you wish to withdraw them from those specific lessons, please contact the head teacher in writing (or via email). These areas are highlighted in red on the Year 5 R.S.E overview sheet, which are also available on the school website.

The DfE does however recommend, 'that all primary schools should have an optional Sex Education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils.'

Although some of the content of these lessons may seem a little daunting and 'grown up', it is worth reminding you that each year group will be taught lessons that are appropriate to their age and developmental stage.

Please note: at no point will a child be taught something that is inappropriate; and if a question from a child arises and the teacher feels it would be inappropriate to answer, (for example, because of its mature or explicit nature), the child will be encouraged to ask his/her parents or carers at home. The question will not be answered to the child or class if it is outside the remit of that year group's programme.

Why is this RSHE curriculum needed?

There are four main aims for teaching R.S.E within the context of Primary School PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education):

More than ever before, children are exposed to representations of sex and sexuality through the social culture around them. The unregulated content on the internet or social media, can mean children may be exposed to dangerous, confusing or scary content. We can prepare them for this by presenting a balanced view of positive healthy relationships to help them to be discerning and to stay safe.

There is much independent research showing most parents and carers value the support of schools in providing Relationship and Sex Education for their children. Parents and schools want children to be safe and happy.

A range of independent research consistently shows that effective Relationship Education delays first sexual experience and reduces risk-taking in young people.

Surveys of children and young people, as well as Ofsted, have repeatedly said that Relationship and Sex Education tends to be “too little, too late and too biological”.

These are some of the many reasons why the Department for Education is making Relationships and Health Education compulsory in primary schools from September 2021, with an emphasis on Relationships Education.

May I thank you for all of your support so far regarding this new legislation.

Kind Regards

Mr D. Magee

Headteacher

