



24 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

In 2020, the teaching of Relationships and Health Education for primary schools became a compulsory part of the curriculum for Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

These subjects are designed to equip your child with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life.

The DfE guidance clearly states the statutory requirements, i.e. what children MUST be taught by the end of primary school. Health Education includes learning about 'the changing adolescent body' to equip children to understand and cope with 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).

The DfE Guidance 2019 (p.23) also recommends that all primary schools have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils.

We recognise that Relationships, Sex and Health Education is a highly sensitive subject but we firmly believe that effective RSHE can make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of our children, both now and in the future, enabling them to make responsible and informed decisions.

At Ashford Church of England Primary School, we believe children should understand the facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school. We define Sex Education as understanding human reproduction: conception happens through the act of sexual intercourse between two consenting adults, within a loving relationship.

Therefore, we have taken the decision to include some non-statutory content in our teaching for a limited number of lessons, specific to Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. If you are a parent of a child in these year groups, you do have the right to withdraw your child from these lessons only.

All content covered is age appropriate and is taught through our Jigsaw scheme.

So that you are aware of what your child will be learning and the vocabulary we will be teaching and using within school, attached to this letter is an overview of the content for the Jigsaw Puzzle "Changing Me", relevant to your Child's current Year group. We would also encourage you to talk about what your child is learning, should they so wish, and be open to any questions your child may have.

Further information, including our Relationships and Sex Education Policy, can also be found on our school website.

Should you have any question or concerns, please come and talk to your child's teacher.

Thank you again for your continued support,

Mrs A Forster (PSHE Lead)