St Mark's CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Katherine Astle, B.A (Hons) QTS

Dear Parents and carers,

Relationships, Health and Sex Education

We are writing to inform you about updates to our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), including Relationships, Sex and Health education (RHSE). In line with the current statutory guidance, we have reviewed and updated our RHSE policy to ensure it continues to meet legal requirements and supports pupils' safety, welfare and personal development. Our PSHE and RSHE work is delivered using the SCARF programme. This programme is structured in an age-appropriate way. Despite having mixed age classes, the RHSE element of the programme is taught in single year groups.

We recognise that parents and carers are the most important educators in children's lives and therefore are committed to working in partnership with you as we review our policy alongside the newly updated statutory guidance. If you wish to view the updated guidance, please click here.

To strengthen our transparency with parents around this subject, I would like to share with you the newly updated draft policy alongside knowledge organisers sharing the key knowledge with parents and carers about what will be covered during these sessions. All of this is attached on this email and will be made available on our school website.

We will also hold a parent drop in session at **14:30 on 21st May.** This will be a chance for you to ask any questions, view some of the teaching materials and look at the policy alongside school staff.

As part of the sequenced curriculum, sex education is taught in Year 5 and Year 6. This content focuses on conception and birth and is delivered in an age-appropriate manner. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from these specific lessons. We will always inform you in advance when these sessions are taking place.

We would like to clarify that puberty is part of health education, not sex education. As this is a statutory element of the curriculum, parents/carers are unable to withdraw their child from this aspect. The learning is taught sensitively and helps children understand and manage the physical and emotional changes they may experience as they grow.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us to ensure that our RHSE provision is inclusive, age appropriate and supportive for all our pupils.

Kind regards,

Miss A Howe
(Deputy Headteacher and School Improvement support)