



William Austin Infant School  
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12 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Relationships and Health Education Consultation**

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education (DfE) has announced changes to Relationships and Health Education following nationwide consultation. These changes were due to come into effect from September 2020. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic and school closures, we had deferred the implementation of the RHE curriculum. However, by the end of the Summer term 2021 all schools will be required to comply with the updated statutory requirements. We will be implementing the RHE curriculum from the Summer 2<sup>nd</sup> half term 2021. Sex Education is not statutory in primary schools, including Infant schools and **it will not be taught** at William Austin Infant School.

The curriculum is a Relationships and Health based curriculum which will form part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Science curriculum.

As part of your child's education at our school, we aim to promote personal wellbeing, physical health, social, emotional and moral development by providing children with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, values and practical skills to live safe, healthy and productive lives so that they can achieve their full potential and be more confident and independent.

We are in the process of updating our Relationships and Health Education policy and planning the lessons we intend to deliver. We want to offer you full reassurance that the curriculum we will provide meets the statutory guidance but at the same time reflects the sensitive needs of the community we serve. We believe the curriculum fully supports the Luton Council values of embracing equality and diversity, cohesion and inclusion and showing respect for others.

The programme we will be using is quality assured by the PSHE Association and is recommended by Luton Council. The scheme of work has been extensively researched and carefully explored in depth to ensure the age-appropriate materials that will be used are well matched to meet the needs of all our pupils at William Austin Infant School. The school, as with all teaching and learning, will conduct lessons in a safe, trusting and secure environment.

We will endeavour to ensure that the topics will be taught sensitively and effectively to all our children and as far as possible we will try to ensure the topics are woven naturally into other aspects of learning, including PSHE and Science. Lessons will include learning about healthy relationships which will cover caring friendships and families, growing and changing, personal hygiene, keeping safe, developing self-esteem and confidence. This will enable children to develop a better understanding of how to keep themselves safe, recognise harmful behaviours and manage risks and challenges effectively. It will ensure children are equipped with the correct knowledge and tools to develop into healthy, informed and emotionally well-rounded individuals who are respectful and tolerant of everyone.

Parents will be informed of the topics, content, lessons, resources and schemes of work that will be used. Information will be provided to support parents in fulfilling their roles as educators and they will be notified when the lessons will be taught so they are fully aware and can teach these topics to support their children's learning at home.

We had planned to host a Parents Workshop earlier in the year, but unfortunately due to Covid-19 these were postponed. Regrettably, due to the restrictions that are currently in place this situation remains the same. We acknowledge that it is imperative to consult with parents and provide information in an open and transparent way, and to that end we have uploaded all the documentation and resources on our School Website for you to look through.

You will find all the relevant information under the Relationships and Health Education Curriculum Information tab of the Parents section on the website. This will include the DfE statutory guidance, our school's Relationships and Health Education draft policy, a PowerPoint presentation, the Christopher Winter Project schemes of work, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's). There will also be an online Parents' Consultation Questionnaire that we ask you to complete by 4.00pm on Monday 26 April.

We would welcome your thoughts to ensure that our curriculum matches the community we serve. As a school community we are committed to working in partnership with you and look forward to your comments and feedback. Any feedback raised will be taken into consideration and addressed as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs B Kang  
Headteacher