

Relationships and Health Education



Parent Consultation Survey Feedback and Outcomes April 2021

Thank you for taking part in the Relationships and Health Education consultation and your feedback from the survey. Overall the majority of the responses have been positive and in support of the RHE curriculum that will be implemented by the end of Summer 2021. There have been some concerns raised by parents which have been addressed below. These concerns are in red, followed by the schools response in black.

It's the parent's responsibility to teach our own children about these concepts.

There has been a change in the law. It is now a statutory requirement to teach Relationships and Health Education (RHE) in all Primary and Infant schools in England as part of all children's education. We will do this as sensitively as we can. We do understand that parents are the prime educators for their children. However, as a school we have a statutory duty to deliver RHE and we will work in close partnership with our parents.

Concerns of children being too young to be taught the RHE curriculum.

We will be using the Christopher Winter Project. It meets the PSHE Association quality standards. Luton Council also recommends it as it is a proven high quality resource. The materials and resources we will be using have been carefully explored and are age-appropriate for our children. We have adapted the Christopher Winter Project to suit the age, background and needs of our children. It fully reflects the values, vision and ethos of our school. Please refer to the overview of the adapted Christopher Winter Project that will be used at William Austin Infant School. This information can be found on the RHE section of the school website.

The DfE guidance states that RHE teaching in school must be sensitive and age-appropriate in approach and content. As a school we consider it best to teach some content in each year group so that all the objectives are covered in a timely manner and not all taught in just one year group. This would enable effective teaching and allow the schemes of learning to be planned in smaller units and be more manageable. If we teach all the content in one year group, for example in Year 2 only, this would result in a great deal of curriculum content and length of time spent on it in one year group (9 lessons as opposed to 3 per each year group), and it would compromise the delivery of the other curriculum subjects.

Concerns of teaching the children about LGBT.

The terms LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) **will not** be used, discussed or explored when teaching the RHE curriculum.

Children will be taught that there are different types of families as mentioned in the stories. Please watch the stories which can be found on the website. The objective for these lessons will be to recognise that all families are different, and how some families have adopted children, some children are cared for by grandparents, some have single parent families or in some families they may have two dads or two mums. This will not be taught in depth. These lessons are taught in the RHE curriculum so children will be aware that there are different family types. The objective is that they all provide a caring and nurturing supportive environment for children. This is linked to the Equality Act so children can learn to build respect and tolerance for all the different structures of families. It is not about promoting any family types or discussing right or wrong choices. As a school we **will not** discuss or encourage any lifestyle choices to undermine anyone's religions or beliefs.

Concerns of knowing difference between female and male, using anatomical language and Sex Education.

All children are growing up in an extremely complex world both online and offline. This presents many positive opportunities, but also many challenges and risks. We have a duty of care and a responsibility to ensure that children understand how to stay safe and healthy, and know how to manage their personal and social lives in a positive way.

Safeguarding children is vitally important in today's society and RHE fundamentally supports this. RHE plays a vital role in meeting the schools safeguarding obligations as outlined in the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' statutory guidance.

The DfE's RHE statutory guidance states that children should know about being safe and have the knowledge to recognise how to report concerns or abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse by using the medically and scientifically correct vocabulary. For safeguarding reasons children need to be aware of this concept and use the correct anatomical language to communicate accurately and describe any unwanted behaviours.

The differences between female and male is also taught to address stereotypes that may exist. Children are already familiar with the difference between male and female. In the KS1 Science National Curriculum children understand that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.

At William Austin Infant school we **will not** be teaching Sex Education.

Schools should focus on teaching English and Maths.

At William Austin Infant School we teach a broad and balanced curriculum following the statutory National Curriculum. This includes teaching Maths, English and all the Foundation subjects. RHE is a part of the Foundation subject curriculum. The RHE curriculum is compulsory and complements subjects such as Science and PSHE.

Going against individual religions and beliefs.

RHE teaching will support all children from all backgrounds to build positive and safe relationships and ensure they grow up in modern Britain having tolerance and respect towards everyone.

Relationships education nurtures tolerance allowing children to grow up to be respectful of people who are different.

The religious backgrounds and beliefs will be taken in consideration when teaching RHE so that the curriculum content is appropriate and taught in a sensitive manner.

As a school we must comply with the Equality Act 2010 where religion or beliefs are protected characteristics.

Under the provisions of the Equality Act, schools must not unlawfully discriminate against people and undermine any of the protected characteristics. The aim of these lessons are not to promote, but to recognise and respect different family structures in society. Teaching staff will remain neutral and **not** share any personal religious beliefs and individual views or opinions.

Adaptations of the Christopher Winter Project.

The Christopher Winter Project Schemes of Work outline a range of resources and additional activities that can be used to teach the RHE curriculum. As a school we have made the

decision to only use some of the recommended resources that are appropriate and sensitive to the needs of our children. There are some resources and activities that **will not** be included in the teaching of RHE at our school.

We **will not** be using: anatomically correct dolls in Year R, anatomically correct toy farm animals in Year 2, female x-ray pictures and stories such as 'Cinderella's Bum'.

Changes made following Parent Consultation Feedback

As a result of the parent's feedback from the consultation we have carefully considered your concerns. In response to some feedback from parents who felt that it would not be appropriate to teach the biological vocabulary for female and male body parts in Year R and Year 1, we have adapted our approach and will now only teach this to children in Year 2. In Year R and Year 1 we will continue to teach the NSPCC Pants rule as we currently do and always have done.

In addition, we have decided not to use the story book 'It's Okay to be Different' in Year 2 as the family objectives will be covered in Year R and Year 1 so it does not need to be reinforced again.

As a school, prior to the consultation taking place, we had already made the decision **not** to use the anatomically correct dolls and animals, and the female x-ray pictures, or the 'Cinderella's Bum' story, which is why they did not appear on the school's adaptation to CWP list.

Lessons

The three weekly RHE lessons will be taught in each year group from mid-June. Parents will be informed in advance, and given information regarding the lesson content that will be taught for each of the three lessons. The majority of the lessons will be short carpet sessions.

Finally...

I have shared the consultation results with governors who are satisfied with the responses made and the changes that have been implemented following the feedback received from parents.

I appreciate that the implementation of RHE is a sensitive and emotive issue, and I thank those parents who took the time to complete the online survey. Your input is valuable, and I hope that I have addressed any concerns you have here.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for me to host a meeting with a group of parents due to the current climate and restrictions in place. However, if you do have any further concerns please contact the school office by phone or by email, as I will be happy to talk to you on the phone, or meet in person with you individually if you prefer.

Kind regards

Mrs B Kang
Headteacher

Mr S Boelman
Chair of Governors