

Hose Church of England Primary School

'Respect, Bravery, Success, Pride'



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Head Teacher: Mrs L Hough

5th June 2024

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on our teaching of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RSHE) in school. You may already be aware the Department for Education (DfE) are in the process of reviewing RSHE. The review was brought forward following reports that some children were being taught inappropriate content within RSHE in some schools. Since 2021 we have used Jigsaw (a Curriculum scheme of work) to support our teaching of both PSHE and RSHE very successfully in our mixed age classes. The content of the curriculum we delivered to our children has always fully complied with the statutory requirements set out for the DfE for teaching this subject.

The DfE have now published its draft review of the current RSHE guidelines for consultation which ends on the 11th of July. You can follow the link below to read further information about the consultation period on the DfE website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance>

The draft guidance document can be read in full here:

https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/supporting_documents/Draft%20RSE%20and%20Health%20Education%20statutory%20guidance.pdf

The link to take part in the consultation survey can be found here:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/>

Usually at this time of year we would be reviewing our policies and procedures for the coming year and providing you with an updated PSHE and RSHE policy. We will need to hold off from this until the consultation period has closed and new finalised guidance is released from the DfE. What we can do is consider the current teaching and how that relates to the draft guidance that has been published by the DfE and the information we have from Jigsaw to support us during this time.

One of the changes that is being proposed is the introduction of age limits to certain aspects of the curriculum. This is to ensure children aren't being taught about sensitive and complex subjects before they are ready to fully understand them.

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This is taken from page 21 of the draft guidance under the heading Sex Education (Primary):

'Para 72. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but the Department recommends that primaries teach sex education in years 5 or 6 (this should be taught no earlier than year 5) in line with what pupils learn about conception and birth as part of the national curriculum for science. The national curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. Schools may also cover human reproduction in the science curriculum, but 22 where they do so, this should be in line with the factual description of conception in the science curriculum.'

There is also a change in terminology from 'Changing Adolescent Bodies' to 'Developing Bodies' and now reads as:

'Please remember that content around puberty in 'Developing Bodies' will be part of statutory Health Education, just as it is in the current 2019 Guidance that is in place for you now. This means that it is NOT classes as sex education and is statutory content to be delivered in primary schools. '

Developing Bodies – This should not be taught before Year 4:

Pupils should know:

- 1. about growth, change and the changing adolescent body, this topic should include the human lifecycle. Puberty should be mentioned as a stage in this process.*
- 2. the key facts about the menstrual cycle, including physical and emotional changes.*

To ensure the content we are teaching is reflective of this current draft guidance we have made some slight changes to the teaching sequence for our Changing Me Theme which we teach during this half term. The changes mainly effect Parrot Class as we have both Year 3 and 4 children together.

This is the teaching sequence for EYFS for the Changing Me Theme this half term:

SUMMER 2 Changing Me
Age 4-5 Lesson 1: My Body
Age 4-5 Lesson 2: Respecting My Body
Age 4-5 Lesson 3: Growing Up
Age 4-5 Lesson 4: Fun and Fears Part 1
Age 4-5 Lesson 5: Fun and Fears Part 2
Age 4-5 Lesson 6: Celebration

Adaptions - There are no adaptions required to this sequence of lessons.

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This is the teaching sequence for Year 1 and 2 for the Changing Me Theme this half term:

Age 6-7 Lesson 1: Life Cycles in Nature
Age 6-7 Lesson 2: Growing From Old to Young
Age 6-7 Lesson 3: The Changing Me
Age 5-6 Lesson 4: Boys' and Girls' Bodies
Age 5-6 Lesson 5: Learning and Growing
Age 5-6 Lesson 6: Coping With Changes

The content has been checked and contains no references to puberty within the lessons.

Adaptions - There are no adaptions required to this sequence of lessons.

This is the teaching sequence for Y3 and 4 for the Changing Me Theme this half term:

Age 8-9 Lesson 1: Unique Me
Age 8-9 Lesson 2: Having a Baby
Age 7-8 Lesson 3: Inside Body Changes
Age 8-9 Lesson 4: Girls and Puberty
Age 7-8 Lesson 5: Family Stereotypes
Age 7-8 Lesson 6: Looking Ahead

Lesson 1: Unique Me (Y4) teaches children that some personal characteristics come from birth parents and that this happens due to the joining of the egg from the mother and sperm from the father.

Adaption – specific reference to conception will be removed.

Lesson 2: Having a Baby (Y4) teaches children about the external and internal parts of male and female bodies that are necessary for making a baby and an explanation of conception.

Adaption – Jigsaw have provided an alternative lesson which focuses on the responsibilities of parenthood, that choosing to have children is a personal choice and their feelings may change on this subject as they get older. There is reference made to 'sperm' and 'eggs' but no discussion about how these come together.

Lesson 3: Inside Body Changes (Y3) This lesson discusses the changes that take place during puberty in both male and female bodies and shows scientific diagrams of the male and female reproductive organs and explains the journeys of sperm and eggs through the body and also explains how a womb/uterus grows to accommodate a growing baby.

Adaption – This lesson will not be taught

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Lesson 4: Girls and Puberty (Y4) teaches the children about the changes that occur to a girl's body in order for her to have babies when she is an adult and that menstruation is a natural part of this. There is also an explanation of the way hormones in our bodies change during puberty and the effects this can have on male and female bodies. There is also a simple explanation of what happens during menstruation. Scientific diagrams are used to illustrate the internal female reproductive organs.

Adaption – This lesson will be taught to Y4 only.

This is the teaching sequence for Year 5 & 6 for the Changing Me Theme this half term:

Age 9-10 Lesson 1: Self and Body Image
Age 9-10 Lesson 2: Puberty for Girls
Age 9-10 Lesson 3: Puberty for Boys
Age 10-11 Lesson 4: Boyfriends and Girlfriends
Age 9-10 Lesson 5: Looking Ahead 1
Age 9-10 Lesson 6: Looking Ahead 2

Lessons 2 and 3 will be taught as a whole class group. Following the whole class teaching session the children will then split into single sex groupings to provide them with the opportunity to ask questions and further discuss any areas that affect them personally.

Lesson 4 talks about the difference between being a friend with someone and why people may wish to have a boyfriend/girlfriend. They learn about respect within a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship and that they should not feel pressured to do something they don't want to do.

Lessons 5 and 6 give children the opportunity to discuss what they are looking forward to about becoming a teenager and moving schools etc. and also what they might be worried about and who to talk to in order to get help with their worries.

Adaptions - There are no adaptions required to this sequence of lessons.

Sharing more detailed information

The draft guidance outlines what schools 'should' and 'must' do in relation to teaching content and sharing information with parents. We aspire to be open about the resources we use and the way PSHE and RSHE are taught at Hose. There has been news in the media of schools being unable or unwilling to share more detailed information due to contractual restrictions put in place by curriculum providers. The advice from Jigsaw is that although we are unable to add such content to our school website we are able to still share this with parents. If you would like to view any of the resources/images or content for any of the lessons outlined above then please do get in touch.

The Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

In both the current and draft guidance, the right for parents to withdraw their child from Sex Education exists. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from relationship education or from topics taught as part of the science curriculum. This is outlined in our current policy:

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'Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory Relationships and Sex Education" DfE Guidance p.17

At Hose Church of England Primary School, Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any part of Sex Education aspect of RSE if they wish to do so, but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction provided under the National Curriculum for science. Parents do not have to give reasons for withdrawing their child but must inform the head teacher. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing, making it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in.'

Teaching about puberty is a statutory requirement which sits within the Health Education strand of the DfE guidance and is not classes as Sex Education. Parents are therefore unable to request their child to be withdrawn from these teaching sessions.

Due to the 2 year planning cycle for our mixed age classes much of the specific Sex Education lessons were taught last year and in accordance with the guidance from the DfE and planning resources from Jigsaw. These were shared with parents of children in relevant year groups ahead of time. There are no discreet lesson on Sex Education during this year's cycle of teaching.

We understand the sensitive nature of the subjects being discussed and understand that you may have questions that have not been fully answered here. If you would like support with discussing any aspect of sex education or puberty with your child then we are happy to help in anyway we can. As soon as the finalised guidance is published by the DfE we will update our policy accordingly and share it and any adaptations to our lessons sequences in the Autumn Term.

If you wish to discuss any of the contents within this letter then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Hough'.

Mrs L Hough
Headteacher