

Dear parents and carers,

During the last summer term, we conducted an RSE survey as part of the parent consultation phase of implementing the government's new RSE guidance. We were pleased to receive over eighty responses. The overwhelming feeling was that the new curriculum is welcomed, with many parents pleased that: their child would have a good transition to the secondary school curriculum, that personal space would be talked about and that their children would have an understanding of relationships that reflect the wider world and their immediate surroundings.

As a follow up, we wanted to address some of your questions and concerns. All staff are always open to more discussions, now and in the future.

N.B. For parents and carers who are new to the school, it would best to read through the RSE presentation first.

What age will the terms bisexual and transgender be introduced?

At present, the school aims to normalize same-sex relationships and the full range of family structures. Having observed children's behaviour over many years, in different school settings, we feel a need to be proactive rather than reactive when tackling homophobic language (which occurs whether or not children quite know what they are saying). There needs to be a whole school approach in order for staff to feel empowered to explain why this language is offensive and outdated. In being proactive, we are also making our school a setting that welcomes diversity and would be welcoming to children who are raised by same-sex couples. The term 'bisexual' would be used within discussions promoting a culture of 'love is love' or 'you can fall in love with whomever you want to'.

This question allowed us to discuss our approach further and, via a staff survey, we have decided that the term LGBT+ will be used from Year 3 onwards, though same-sex relationships and families will be present within learning in KS1 via books and discussions. In Year 3 upwards, we have decided that the term LGBT+ will be introduced and revisited at the same time each year. On top of this, we aim to notify parents as to when this is so that you are prepared for any other questions your child or children may have. Staff using the term LGBT+ would explain that the T represents 'transsexual', which would mean 'when someone who is biologically a boy/girl, does not feel that their gender identity is the same'. This will build on the work in Year Two about gender stereotypes.

However, in the course of time this will need to be reviewed, as again it is better to be proactive than reactive. There are case studies and instances where primary school communities already being educated regarding this term have helped children who are questioning how their assigned sex does not feel in line with their gender. Building children's knowledge of this will also allow them to be open minded citizens within our already diverse world.

Will learning that was missed due to the Covid-19 lockdown be addressed?

Missed concepts in all subjects have been collated centrally and will be passed on to the children's next teachers. With statutory science lessons in mind, Year Three will look at the human life-cycle (excluding details about reproduction) and Year Six will be learning about puberty in the autumn term. This class will receive a letter to inform parents when that discussion will happen.

We would welcome an e-mail home so that we can discuss the learning as a family.

We agree. This has been planned for within the policy and staff have discussed this during training.

Would online bullying be covered?

Online bullying and e-safety are part of the existing school curriculum, taught during PSHE and computing lessons. Negative behaviour online certainly has become part of our lives and we aim to prepare the children with ways to tackle this and also about the results of perpetrating such behaviour.

I feel it is too young to be taught these topics.

It is natural to feel this way about the curriculum change and we welcome further discussions about this, as it's hard to pinpoint which specific part of the change is concerning.

If there is concern surrounding the proposed additional sex education lessons. We would welcome further discussion about this when the additional sex education lessons arise in Years Two, Five and Six (signposted by a letter home).

The relationships aspect of RSE is already covered in school via our PSHE curriculum.

As discussed within a different question, LGBT+ is being normalized in our school. Within early years and KS1, it is likely that the children will encounter different family types in books and books that address gender stereotypes. From our observations, children as young as reception class show an awareness of same-sex relationships and have asked their parents about them.