

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a part of your child's educational experience at Richard de Clare Academy, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives children and young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes will come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. Due to COVID 19 schools have been able to delay this until the summer term 2021. The statutory guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

Consequently, from September 2020, Relationships, along with Health Education, will be statutory, and form part of the National Curriculum. For Secondary schools Sex Education will also become statutory. However, the DfE continue to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Where schools provide sex education at key stages 1 and 2, parents will have the right to withdraw their child from sex education but not from statutory Relationships Education, Health Education or what is taught in the Science National curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE ( Relationship and Sex Policy) curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities

Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered, and enable us to reach a general consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would appreciate your views on our draft policy for Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content as schools are legally required to teach the National Curriculum. The right to withdraw children from some lessons is explained within the policy.

More information about RSE can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>

You can find our draft RSE policy on the school website. Please do take time to read through the document and if you have any comments then please do let me know by sending an e-mail to [admin@richarddeclare.com](mailto:admin@richarddeclare.com).

I will be holding a virtual meeting Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm to discuss the RSE curriculum further. If you would like to attend then please do let me know so I can send you the Teams link.

Your view really matter to us and we would appreciate you taking the time to complete the following survey:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pGSzkutqF0WtMGeWgmb4Jlnjn8qLFvNDnihuZkEwHKdUNTIDSUw2R1ZITVIQOUdVSIllyRjZFMEhOUy4u>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Couttie