



Ridgeway Farm CE Academy
The Buffer
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Swindon
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Executive Principal: Mrs C. Luce

Dear Parents and Carers,

We all want our children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. In order to support this, new government statutory guidelines were implemented from September 2020, which mean that all primary age children will be taught Relationships and Health Education. (You may see this referred to RSHE or RSE).

Much of the content of this new set of guidelines is already taught in schools. However, the new guidance requires that children are taught aspects of this every year from Year 1, in a 'spiral' curriculum which builds on their knowledge as time goes by. Some areas have also been built on or added to in order to reflect life in the 21st century. The last time this area of the curriculum was updated by the Department of Education was over 20 years ago.

Relationships and Health education are both designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships, as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. More detail on the content on these statutory subjects can be found in the attached Department for Education leaflet which we would encourage you to read.

As you will see from the leaflet, primary schools can also choose to teach sex education - specifically how a human baby is conceived and born. As a school we have made the decision that we will not cover this as part of the RHE curriculum. For further information on this please see the policy and attached guidance.

Behind the scenes, we have been busy preparing for this change for some time. Leaders have had training provided via advisors who specifically work with Church schools. We have spent time investing in some brand new resources and teaching staff will be trained in the use of these this term. We have also written a new Relationships and Health Education (RHE) policy. This policy is based on an approved Church of England template.

The RHE policy links closely to our Personal Social and Health Education. On the school website under the curriculum tab are copies of the PSHE year group curriculum maps for each year group. We include the statutory Relationships and Health Education within our whole-school PSHE Programme. To ensure progression and a spiral curriculum, we use Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, as our chosen teaching and learning programme and tailor it to your children's needs.

As part of the implementation of the RHE curriculum, parents, staff and governors, will be asked to read through the RHE policy and make comments on it.

In more normal times, we would have been able to share some of this with you in more detail via face to face sessions. However, we do invite you to look through all of the attached information now and, if you do

have any questions about the content, email us on admin@ridgewayfarmcea.org, including **RHE** in the subject line before 7th May 2021. We are also asking that you please complete the consultation form on ParentMail.

It is our intention to share more detail with you on this area via a recorded presentation in the near future. This presentation will include examples of some of the resources we will be using for this teaching, as well as giving an idea of different methods teachers may use to deliver the content and how they will answer any questions the children may raise.

We feel this new guidance presents us with a fantastic opportunity to support our children as they take on the challenges and embrace the opportunities of our modern world. We hope you feel the same. We believe it is vital that we work collaboratively in order to ensure the children are able to realise the full benefit of these exciting and important changes and look forward to hearing from you with any questions or comments by Friday 7th May 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Parent Mail form:

In order to provide your feedback to this consultation, we would appreciate your completion of the following questionnaire:

I think RHE education is an important part of the school curriculum

- ☒ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

RHE topics taught in school can make a real difference to young people's lives.

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

I feel happy to talk with my child about growing up, sex and relationships

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree

- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

I understand and agree with the content of the RHE Policy

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

I am aware of the topics that will be covered by RHE sessions

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Are there any changes or additions that you think should be made to the RHE Policy or curriculum?

Is there anything we're not covering that you think we need to address?

As a parent, do you feel like you need more information or guidance on specific topics? How would this information be best communicated? Please do get in contact with us should you wish to discuss anything further

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