



Bowker Vale Primary School

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27.3.19

Dear Families,

A number of you have contacted school regarding the changes you may have read about or heard about in the news concerning the new requirements for Relationships and Health education.

This letter will explain what is happening at Bowker Vale.

The new requirements are issued by the Department for Education (DfE) and are not until September 2020. All primary schools will need to provide:

- Relationships education
- Health education

We already cover parts of these topics through our 'Growing and Changing' curriculum.

Sex education continues to be non-compulsory. Primary schools won't be required to provide sex education, but the DfE recommends we have a programme in place. A new policy will be required for relationships education and we will consult parents when we develop it – this won't be until the Autumn term 2019. We will add any 'sex education' we choose to teach into this policy. Parents and carers will be invited to view the materials (as they are now) before anything is taught.

Please note – parents/carers cannot withdraw their child from relationships or health education, however, if we choose to teach sex education you may withdraw your children from part or all of it.

The DfE has set out what pupils should know by the end of primary school. We already cover most of these topics in our 'Growing and Changing' curriculum. You've probably also been reading about these in the news. For the full list of expectations, please see our school website (under 'curriculum').

For now, please don't worry. Nothing is changing. In the Autumn term, we will invite you in to look at the materials and the curriculum and help to shape our policy. The new curriculum will not be in place until September 2020.

I hope this answers your questions and worries.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Jacques
Headteacher

