



Headteacher
Mr. Dale Bateman

Monday 7th September 2020

RE: Compulsory Relationship & Health Education

Dear Families,

You will be aware that, as part of your child's educational experience at Coopersale, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives our children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

Teaching about Relationship & Health Education (RHE) is nothing new for schools – relationship education is covered through our Science Curriculum and PSHE education – but there have been concerns about consistency of quality and time allocated to it. As a result, from September 2020 the Department for Education is making RHE compulsory in all schools.

What does the new guidance mean?

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. Many of the changes which relate to 'Sex education' affect Secondary schools and sometimes this is not made clear in the media, though the Department for Education '*continues 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*'.

We are not introducing compulsory Sex education at primary school. We are introducing Relationship & Health Education at primary, to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will start with family and friends, how to treat each other with kindness, and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships. Some of the RHE content will be covered as part of the Science curriculum. For example, in Year 5 & 6, children learn about the life cycle of a human being. They will investigate the development of babies and compare the gestation period of humans and other animals. They will also learn about the changes experienced during puberty and why these occur.

What if I have questions?

As a school, we are currently drafting a new RHE Policy which meets the legal requirements for the statutory Relationships and Health Programme. It is also important for us to create and maintain an open dialogue between parents and teachers as early as possible. I will be setting up a 'working-group' of parents who will be supporting the school in reviewing our school policy. If you are interested, please email admin@coopersaletheydongarnon.essex.sch.uk, giving your details. It would be great to include one parent from each class as hopefully this will lead to a better understanding of its breadth and content. Parents wishing to be part of our 'working-group' will need to have access to Microsoft TEAMS as our meeting will be held online. Once our policy has been reviewed by parents, teachers and ratified by the Governing Body, the policy as well as detailed coverage will be available on our website.

In the meantime, feel free to click on the link below which provides further information regarding RHE.

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

Many thanks,

Mrs P. Atwal (Deputy Headteacher & Curriculum Lead)