

September 14th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Department for Education has announced changes to its Relationships and Health Education (RHE) curriculum. These changes need to come into effect in all schools by the Summer term of 2021 at the latest. This was subject to a delay due to the lockdown. All schools will be required to comply with the updated statutory requirements by this date.

This means that we will be reviewing our RHE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

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

We plan to teach the Relationships Education and Health Education curriculum which are both statutory elements that children cannot opt out of. We are choosing not to teach additional Sex Education and this is not compulsory until secondary school, however we will continue to teach sex education which forms part of the Science curriculum in **Year 6 only**. Children can potentially opt out of these lessons, as they have always been able to, however we strongly recommend that they take part so that they understand how to keep themselves safe and learn about their own bodies and how they work.

We want to provide you with all of the information you need in order to understand these changes, therefore we have developed a **folder on our website which contains all related documents**. It can be found under the **Parents** tab and then – **Relationships Health Education**.

Consultation

We are opening up a **consultation which will run for six weeks from September 14th until October 23rd** Once you have read the documents we welcome your opinions and questions.

What is changing?

The DfE are introducing Relationships Education at primary school in order 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. The curriculum was last updated 19 years ago and clearly is out of date. It will not be possible to remove your child from Relationships Education lessons.

Health Education is also being made a statutory element of the curriculum at primary level. Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

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Curricular scheme

The Local Authority have supported the use of a curricular scheme called 1Decision, for primary schools in the borough. Ms Chambers has drawn up a whole school curriculum map which details exactly what will be taught in each year group.

RHE draft policy

An RHE policy was drawn up by a group of local Headteachers and will be implemented in all Waltham Forest schools. We have amended the policy to best suit our school. It is in draft form at present.

Survey

We have set up a survey to gather your views on these changes. You will be emailed a link and QR code if you wish to complete this survey online. If you would like a hard copy of the survey please request one via the school office. Please only complete this when you have read all of the information available. The **survey deadline is October 9th at 3pm**. We will report its findings within the final decision letter which will be published on November 9th.

Website information

You can find our draft policy, curriculum map, survey and DfE information on our website under Parents – Relationships Health Education

How to ask for additional clarification

Under normal circumstances, we would hold face to face meetings to discuss this per year group. However, with social distancing measures still in place, we need to avoid this in order to keep everyone safe. Therefore, I invite you to email me directly about any additional questions you may have and I will be able to get back to you. These emails will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. If you have any curricular questions I may also refer you to Ms Chambers who is our RHE lead.

Contact email: verity.carter@georgetomlinson.waltham.sch.uk

I look forward to opening up a positive conversation with you about these changes and ultimately for us to have an updated RHE curriculum that best meets the needs of our pupils here at GT.

Thank you in advance for your input.

Yours sincerely,



Verity Carter
Headteacher

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