



Dear Parents/ Carers,

As part of your child's educational experience at Farnham Common Village Schools 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 and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives both now and in the future. The world our children are faced with today presents many challenges and we see PSHE as vital in keeping your child safe in the modern world. We wish to work in partnership with parents to ensure that parents are ready and prepared to support children at home with this important subject.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has previously announced changes to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) following nationwide consultation. These were due to become statutory in September 2020 but have been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The changes will now come into effect from September 2021 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements from this point. You can find the statutory guidance here:

<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 range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships. This content starts in Reception and the course will be completed by the end of Year 6. By learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, the aim is to give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and to help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

For the above reasons, from September 2021, Relationships, along with Health Education, will be statutory and form part of the national curriculum. Sex Education will become statutory in secondary schools at this time and the DfE continue to recommend that primary schools deliver a sex education programme tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of its pupils. Parents with children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have the right to excuse their child from sex education, which forms three lessons in Year 6 at Farnham Common Village Schools, but they are unable to withdraw their child from Relationships Education, Health Education or what is taught in the Science National Curriculum.

At Farnham Common Village Schools, we have been reviewing our Relationships and Sex Education curriculum and policy so we can be sure that our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils and helps to keep our pupils safe in the modern world. We have taken into account their age, physical and emotional maturity, religious and cultural backgrounds and any special educational needs and disabilities.

Relationships and Sex Education can be an emotive subject for some and we hope that by consulting with you it will help to inform our decision on when and how certain content is covered. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review, we would appreciate your views on our draft policy for Relationships 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 from a few lessons of the course is explained within the policy which is on our website.

To help you understand the curriculum requirements and resources, we have uploaded our draft RSE Policy to the website for you to read. We have also saved a webinar: 'Keeping your child safe in the modern world' where we will cover the resources used and the curriculum requirements for each year group. We would also like to invite you to complete a survey on the RSE policy, so we can hear and respond to your views.

Please find the relevant documents and information here:

<https://farnhamcommonjunior.secure-primariesite.net/relationships-and-sex-education-consultation-docum/>

Your views are very important to us as we feel it is imperative that school and parents work together to teach our children this important content. We want to ensure that parents feel prepared and well-resourced to facilitate open discussions and to work in partnership with the school to best prepare our children for the challenges of staying safe in the modern world.

We will respond to the feedback given in the survey and the finalised Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be uploaded to the school's website.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Corbitt  
**Deputy Headteacher – Farnham Common Junior School**  
**RSE Lead**

## Farnham Common Village Schools

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