

18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As part of your child's educational experience at Roundwood Park School, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic (PSHCE) education that gives children and young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

You may be aware that from September 2020 the Department for Education had planned to make Relationships and Health Education (Primary) and Relationships Sex Education and Health Education compulsory in all schools. In light of the impact of Covid-19, this has been changed and will now be compulsory from the summer term 2021.

Like other schools, we have been developing ways to introduce the new guidance into our current delivery of PSHCE and had planned for this to begin in September 2020. Considering the experience of lockdown, together with the changes to the current academic year that you will already be aware of, we anticipate gradually introducing the new guidance from the summer term 2021.

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. Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, it will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and will help them take responsibility for their own well-being. As with our current teaching, all of the sessions will be age-appropriate and meet the needs of all students in the class.

How will this be delivered?

This guidance will form part of our school's PSHCE programme that is already taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly.

All teaching in PSHCE takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school values and policy.



A variety of opportunities are provided for students to ask questions to further their understanding and to find out more about what affects them personally. Where appropriate, aspects of the new guidance will be addressed in assemblies and where possible, the school will continue to work with suitable external organisations and charities to deliver the guidance in a holistic way.

What if I have questions?

We had planned to introduce parents to the new guidance by a holding parent information evening this term. As this has not been possible, we will consult with parents in the spring term using the safest and most appropriate methods to do so. We want you to be aware of what your child will learn, view examples of the materials and resources being used in lessons and discover how you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home.

As a school community, we are committed to working with parents. We are aware that the new guidance regarding sex and relationships education is likely to raise some questions and we will do our best to answer them as fully as we can. We would be grateful for any questions that you do have to be raised with us during the consultation process and not before.

Where can I find out more?

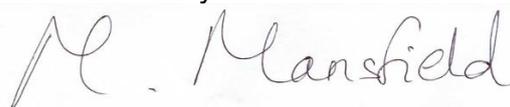
Please find attached to this letter a detailed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Parents/Carers in Hertfordshire Secondary Schools. Please note that the document was produced before pandemic and so the dates specify a September 2020 start date for the guidance and as previously stated, this has been amended to the summer term in 2021. The document clearly outlines what we think parents ought to be aware of at this stage.

More information about the introduction of compulsory relationships, sex and health education can also be found from the Department of Education via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>

We look forward to being in touch with you in the new term with more information but in the meantime, thank you in advance for your support in helping us make your child's/children's wellbeing and personal development a central part of their education here at Roundwood Park.

Yours sincerely



Martina Mansfield
Assistant Headteacher