



Sir Edmund Hillary Primary School

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Dear Parent / Guardian,

As a part of your child's education at Sir Edmund Hillary Primary School we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

As you may be aware, from September 2020 the Department for Education is making Relationships and Health Education (Primary) and Relationships Sex Education and Health Education compulsory in all schools (Sometimes the word Statutory is used to emphasise the Legal context we are working within). Along with other schools we are gradually introducing some of the changes throughout this school year and are therefore a Pilot School for the new policy.

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.

It means that what we deliver in school must reflect British Values and uphold the law- especially with regard to protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are a legally defined framework to ensure that no-one is discriminated against because of their age, race or religion/ belief, their sexual or gender identity (including people who identify as LGBT+) or if they have a disability.

How will this be delivered?

The statutory guidance will form part of our school's PSHE education programme which is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body.

All of the sessions will be age-appropriate and meet the needs of all pupils in the class reflecting and affirming their own lives, the school's values and prepare them for fully engaged life in Britain.

All teaching in PSHE will take place in a safe learning environment and be underpinned by our school ethos and values. A variety of opportunities will be provided for pupils to ask questions to further their understanding and to find out more about what affects them personally.

What will be covered?

For more detail about our PSHE curriculum offer, we publish the areas covered in PSHE within each Year Group's Curriculum Plans on the School Website, but elaborate here on two significant areas to help give some substance to the changes.

The first is exemplified in the area of **Families and People Who Care for Me**

Pupils should know:

- that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability

Cont'd over...

- the characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives
- that others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care
- that stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up
- that marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong
- how to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed

Teaching about families requires sensitive and well-judged teaching based on knowledge of pupils and their circumstances. Families of many forms provide a nurturing environment for children. We ensure that acceptance is shown of all families, including for example, single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents and carers amongst other structures. We take care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances and reflect sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them; for example, looked after children or young carers.

The second area to elaborate upon is that the new guidance makes a clarification about the content covered in PSHE and that which is covered through the Science National Curriculum, though both have now become Statutory. At Key Stages 1 and 2, the National Curriculum for science includes teaching about the main external parts of the body and changes to the human body as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty. It requires that, in years 5&6, we teach reproduction within animals and plants and provides guidance that this should cover both sexual and asexual reproduction in plants and sexual reproduction in animals. At Sir Edmund Hillary we cover key aspects of puberty in Y5 that is both part of the science curriculum and supportive of the children's understanding of their own personal development. In Y6 we cover sexual reproduction in humans as part of the Statutory Science curriculum. Again, however, we handle it in a way that naturally overlaps with PSHE, so the context we use is reproduction within committed family relationships. We always inform parents when this is happening and the resources that we use are available for parents to see if they request it. (We largely use resources from the BBC and only use resources that are labelled for KS2)

What if I have questions?

As a school community, we are committed to working with parents. In the latter half of the Spring Term we will hold some parents meetings for each phase so that staff and parents can talk about the planned curriculum and see the resources and planning that is appropriate for each Phase. The dates for these meetings are after school for about 20 minutes:

Monday 24th Feb - Year 3/4 – Mrs Pollard's room

Tuesday 25th Feb - Year 1/2 – Mrs McConway's room

Wednesday 4th March - Year 5/6 – Mrs Craik's room

Recent feedback from parents following our usual programme in Y6, has indicated that parents are highly supportive of the relationships and sex education programme that we run.

If you would like to find out more please, in the first instance, contact your class teacher, but Mr Guest, Mrs Eccles, or Mrs Pollard, who heads up our PSHE work will also be happy to help.

Yours faithfully



Chris Guest
(Head Teacher)