

Rowlands Gill Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs L Clarke

Dominies Close, Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear, NE39 2PP

Telephone: 01207 549 359

E-mail: RGPS@gateshead.gov.uk

Website: www.rowlandsgillprimary.org



30th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a part of your child's educational experience at Rowlands Gill Primary School, 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, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes will come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. Due to COVID 19 schools have been able to delay this until the September 2021. The statutory guidance can be found at:

<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 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 will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

Consequently, from September 2021, Relationships Education, along with Health Education, will be statutory, and form part of the National Curriculum. For Secondary schools, Sex Education will also become statutory. However, the DfE continue 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.

This means that we have been reviewing our Relationship Education 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 disabilities

Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our school's decisions on when and how certain content is covered, and enable us to reach a general consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would appreciate your views on our draft policy for Relationships Education which has been sent out with this letter.

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 children from some lessons is explained within the policy.

Our consultation questionnaire is available for you to complete by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uGh3-2lCmUKj28L7Qpa4KpiNhPqJO5dGri4NkyJjiqUNVJXVkpLRktSUjQ4RkRUWU5DTktNUDFMQy4u>

Our consultation ends on 14th July 2021 so we would appreciate your responses by that date. Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process later this term. Once we have considered all the feedback, the finalised Relationships Education Policy will be uploaded to the school's website which will also set out the proposed curriculum.

I hope this letter goes some way to answer any questions you may have. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Abigail Brown
PSHE Curriculum Subject Lead