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Response to PSHE parent consultation: May 2021

Introduction

Firstly, a word of thanks to the parents who have read and considered the new PSHE and RSE draft policy and have provided overwhelmingly positive and encouraging feedback. It was great to see so many parents support this very important part of our children's education as one way to support our children's development as human beings, to enable them to understand and respect who they are, to empower them with a voice and to equip them for life and learning.

We received 55 responses to the consultation and provide a response to feedback received below.

Wessex PSHE & RSE draft Policy document

Seventy-one percent (71%) of respondents had no comments or questions regarding the Policy document. Feedback is provided below in response to comments/questions received.

We are aware that families in our school community can have very varied views about life style choices for a number of reasons. At Wessex, our aim is to respect the different views, but ultimately have a responsibility to (as stated in the statutory guidance from the Department of Education) 'help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain which very much represents a very wide range of lifestyle choices'. As evident in our policy, our position is not to encourage or promote any particular lifestyle over another or as preferential, but we will teach children to be kind, understanding and respectful and accepting of all.

Sex Education is defined at Wessex Primary School as understanding human reproduction and we believe children should and need to understand the facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school. As stated in the Policy, we will place a particular emphasis in Year 5 on Relationships Education and Health Education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We will teach the children about the parts of the body and how they work. We also explain what will happen to their bodies during puberty. By the end of Year 6, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is and how it affects women. In addition, at the end of Year 6,

**AT WESSEX OUR CORE VALUES ARE
TO ASPIRE, BE HEALTHY, BE CONFIDENT, BE KIND AND CARING,
SHOW RESPECT, SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY**

the school has opted to deliver some aspects of sex education. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and will draw on the knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science – how a baby is conceived and born.

Relationships and Sex Education areas of importance

A small number of parents have communicated areas of Relationship and Sex education that they consider a priority to be taught. We have considered all the areas and feel confident that they are covered in the newly proposed curriculum. The benefit of using the Jigsaw scheme is that many of these topics will be repeated year on year with a natural progression as the children mature and face new challenges. Class teachers will follow the Jigsaw scheme of work to ensure consistency and transparency for successful teaching and learning. The areas raised include how babies are made, friendships, relating to others, acceptance, on-line safety, rights and responsibilities and healthy relationships.

Further information on the school's programme of and talking to your child about Relationship and Sex Education

At Wessex, we believe that our children benefit most when the school and parents/carers work together, and this is particularly true with regards to Relationship and Sex Education topics. From September 2021 onwards, we will include an overview of the PSHE topics to be covered in the termly curriculum map, which is distributed at the start of each new full term. Where necessary, we will provide details about specific vocabulary that will be introduced and discussed. This will enable parents to anticipate potential questions from children and have supportive (and consistent) discussions. Understandably, the school will not be able to provide in-depth details of every lesson delivered and we also have to ensure that Jigsaw intellectual property is protected.

Interest in seeing the Jigsaw resources that will be used to deliver the RSE curriculum

Some parents have communicated an interest in seeing an example of the Jigsaw resource that will be used to lead the teaching and learning. In response to this request, we are organising a Zoom presentation on Tuesday 6th July @ 9.30am, which will be attended by the subject leader, a Deputy Head teacher and the governor responsible for overseeing the implementation of the statutory, new PSHE and RSE curriculum.

If you wish to attend the Zoom presentation, please contact the office to register your interest so the relevant details can be sent to you.