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'Placing learning at the heart of everything we do.'

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Dear Parent and Carers,

PSHE AND RSHE CURRICULUM AT PRIESTLEY

During term 6, the children will be learning the 'Relationship, Sex and Health Education' aspect of the curriculum, as appropriate to their year group using the Jigsaw scheme – 'Changing Me' unit.

Relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) is the statutory element of our PSHE curriculum for all schools in England. During these lessons, pupils will be able to ask questions, which will be answered factually in an age-appropriate manner. Each pupil's privacy will be respected, and no one will be asked to reveal personal information. This is really important as it helps keep children safe and enables them to make healthy decisions later in life.

What will my child actually be taught?

The 'Changing Me' unit, which is taught in the second half of the summer term, will be taught in ways appropriate to their age and development stage. Please note, at no point will a child be taught something that is inappropriate; and if a question from a child arises and the teacher feels it would be inappropriate to answer, (for example, because of its mature or explicit nature), the child will be encouraged to ask his/her parents or carers at home.

The Topics covered are:

EYFS - Growing up: how we have changed since we were babies

Year 1- Boys' and girls' bodies; body parts

Year 2 - Boys' and girls' bodies; body parts and respecting privacy (which parts of the body are private and why this is)

Year 3 - How babies grow and how boys' and girls' bodies change as they grow older.

Year 4 - Internal and external reproductive body parts, body changes in girls and menstruation

Year 5 - Puberty for boys and girls, and conception

Year 6 - Puberty for boys and girls and understanding conception to birth of a baby.

We believe that promoting the health and wellbeing of our pupils is an important part of their overall education. We do this through our personal, social, health and emotional (PSHE) curriculum. PSHE covers many topics including all kinds of relationships, physical/emotional health and the skills needed to live in the wider world.

What is the purpose of RSHE within PSHE?

There are four main aims for teaching RSHE within the context of Primary School PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) Education:

- ✓ To enable young people to understand and respect their bodies and be able to cope with the changes puberty brings, without fear or confusion.
- ✓ To help young people develop positive and healthy relationships appropriate to their age, development, etc. (respect for self and others)
- ✓ To support young people to have positive self-esteem and body image, and to understand the influences and pressures around them.
- ✓ **To empower them to be safe and safeguarded.**

RSHE is a statutory subject and although parents can withdraw their child from the sex education element, we want to assure parents that our curriculum is taught in an age-appropriate manner and provides pupils with the time to ask questions in a safe environment and ultimately receive factual information, rather than hearing content second hand or via online platforms. In the 21st century pupils are exposed to many incorrect messages about their bodies, relationships and expectations. The prevalence of sexual images on social and other media makes it important that all young people have a place to discuss pressures, check facts, dispel myths and ultimately feel safe.

Why is RSHE taught in schools?

There are many reasons why RSHE is taught in schools:

- ✓ It is part of the National Science Curriculum.
- ✓ More than ever before, children are exposed to representations of sex and sexuality through the media and the social culture around them, so we need to present a balanced view of SRE.
- ✓ Research shows that most parents say they want the support of schools in providing RSHE for their children.
- ✓ Research consistently shows that effective RSHE delays first sexual experience and reduces risk-taking.
- ✓ Surveys of children and young people have repeatedly told us that SRE tends to be 'too little, too late and too biological.'

At Priestley, we believe that knowledge empowers children to make informed decisions that help keep them safe, healthy and happy. An uninformed child is often a child left vulnerable and we want to safeguard our pupils at Priestley Primary School.

You may find that your child starts asking questions about the topic at home, or you might want to take the opportunity to talk to your child about issues before the work is covered in school. If you have any queries about the content of the programme or resources used, please email ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk. If you do not wish for your child to take part in these sessions, please let us know in writing by emailing ask@priestley.wilts.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

C Gibbens

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