



Phoenix Arch School
Head Teacher Jude Towell
Deputy Head Marion Joseph
Assistant Head Helen Patel

October 2020

Dear parents and carers,

You may be aware that there will be some statutory changes being brought in for the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in schools. The Department for Education is introducing compulsory Relationships and Health Education and Sex Education for primary pupils from September 2020.

As a part of your child's education at **Phoenix Arch 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.

The purpose of the upcoming curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. If students are provided with timely and age appropriate information about their bodies and relationships, they can make their transition into adulthood with the confidence and knowledge to understand what is happening to them, and hopefully grow into confident and healthy adults able to make positive choices.

Lessons in all year groups will include pupils learning about:

Healthy relationships, including friendships and families
Growing and changing, including puberty, personal hygiene, changing and feelings
Becoming more independent
Keeping safe, including online safety
Developing self-esteem and confidence.

Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions.

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website: <https://www.phoenixarchschool.co.uk/teaching-learning/> for more detail about our PSHE curriculum. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

Schools are required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships and Sex Education, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered.

There is a vast amount of information about relationships and sex on the internet, on TV, in magazines, which children and young people are exposed to. This can sometimes make an already confusing time and seem even more complicated.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary level and we believe the content of these topics - such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) - are important for all children to be taught. You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in primary schools. However, we are confident that you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the PSHE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all of our students. As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents; recent parental feedback has indicated that the overwhelming majority of parents continue to be highly supportive of the relationships and sex education programme.

We are looking forward to sharing further information in due course. If any concerns please email the Head teacher at: head@phoenixarch.brent.sch.uk

Best wishes

Jude

Head Teacher