



Billingshurst Primary School  
Information for parents regarding statutory  
changes to the **personal, social, health and  
economic (PSHCE)** curriculum

Healthy Education, Relationship Education  
and Relationship and Sex Education

# Why is PSHCE so important?

- PSHE education has [proven impact](#) on life chances and academic success when delivered well
- This strengthening of PSHE education's status can have a major impact on the quality of PSHE in all schools for all pupils.
- These developments mean that all pupils can benefit from an education that keeps them safe, healthy and prepared for the realities of modern life.

*“The evidence shows that personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education can improve the physical and psychosocial well-being of pupils. A virtuous cycle can be achieved, whereby pupils with better health and well-being can achieve better academically, which in turn leads to greater success.”*

Department for Education [review](#) of PSHE education impact and effective practice

[An extensive 2017 literature review](#) by leading economists found ‘*Very strong evidence*’ that PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) learning has a positive impact on health, well being and academic attainment.

# What are the new KS 1 & 2 statutory requirements?

- The Department for Education published [statutory guidance for Health Education, Relationships Education and RSE](#) in June 2019.
- The **Health Education** and **Relationships Education** aspects of PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) education will be compulsory in all primary schools from September 2020.
- Broad areas of particular relevance and concern to children and young people today are covered. Every child is guaranteed a PSHE education that covers mental health and wellbeing, physical health (including healthy lifestyles and first aid) and learning about safe, healthy relationships, including understanding consent and negotiating life online.

# Is BPS meeting the statutory requirements?

- We already teach a PSHE curriculum that covers health and relationships.
- The new requirements are about raising and 'levelling up' of PSHE standards. We are well on the way to delivering the requirements and will continue to build on what we are already doing well.
- We timetable a programme of regular, planned PSHE lessons just like any other subject.
- We will be using West Sussex's E4S (Education for Safeguarding)resources but our PSHE programme will be tailored to the needs of our pupils and community. There is no 'one-size-fits-all solution'.

## Should we only cover what's included in this guidance?

- The statutory guidance outlines what schools *must* cover – though not everything that schools *should* cover – in PSHE from 2020. The Department for Education (DfE) says: *‘All elements of PSHE are important and the government continues to recommend PSHE be taught in schools’.*
- We will not just ‘teach to the guidance’, but see it as the basic requirement which forms part of our broader PSHE curriculum.

# What about sex education?

- The Department for Education '*continues 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*'
- The new statutory requirements do not extend to **sex education** at KS 1 and 2 beyond the biological/reproductive aspects schools are already required to cover in science (Year 5 and 6))
- In line with government recommendations, we *will* provide sex education *tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils*', parents will have the right to withdraw their child from sex education but not from statutory Relationships Education or Health Education

## Is there a Relationships Education/RSE policy in place?

- All primary schools will need to have a Relationships Education policy in place or where sex education is also taught, an RSE policy. The DfE is clear that schools should publish relevant policies online, and ensure parents are consulted and examples of resources shared.
- Ours will be freely available for parents to access, and includes:
  - an outline of what will be taught to children within the Relationships Education/RSE curriculum
  - a rationale for this learning (for example in relation to safeguarding)
  - a clear procedure for withdrawal from sex education
  - reasons why the school believes children should not be withdrawn from these lessons

## Further support for parents.

- DfE guidance for parents: The Department for Education has published [a useful list of FAQs for parents](#) on the new RSE/Relationships Education requirements, and [new guides for parents](#) on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education.