

11th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a part of your child's education, 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. It is within this subject that we cover the statutory topics associated with the **Department for Education (DfE) statutory requirements for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education**.

Due to school closures and national lock-downs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic since the new statutory guidance for Relationships and Health Education came into being in September last year, the DfE have given schools until the end of this term to finalise their policy and programme of study and ensure parents are informed.

You can read about the statutory guidance in this DfE guide for parents here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

The new guidance is simply about ensuring that all children get the information they need and want. The lessons will help children to learn about their bodies including the changes that take place at puberty, and will help keep them safe, so they can form healthy relationships with others, now and in the future. Current government Sex and Relationships Education guidance states that children should learn about puberty before they experience it, one of the reasons why making this subject statutory in all schools is so important.

Aspire devises whole Trust policies for all statutory aspects of school operation with, where appropriate, the flexibility for each academy to reflect its local context and made decisions based on the needs of its own pupils.

Aspire's draft Relationships and Sex Education Policy can be viewed under the Aspire Academy Website under statutory policies and is also displayed under the Statutory information/Curriculum/PSHE/RSE Section on the school website.

T: 01726 75858

E: hello@sandyhill.org.uk W: www.sandyhill.org.uk

Sandy Hill Academy, Sandy Hill, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 3AT

A Company Limited by Guarantee. An Exempt Charity

Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

Registered Office: Aspire Academy Trust, Unit 20, St Austell Business Park, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4FD

You can see what we teach in each year group in our curriculum map for Relationships and Health Education on our website under Statutory information/Curriculum, PHSE/RSE Section.

At our school we are using the leading children's health and wellbeing charity, Coram Life Education (CLE) to support us in meeting these legal requirements. We use Coram Life Education's online SCARF teaching resources. More information about Coram Life Education and SCARF can be found on their website: www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk

Research shows that children with better health (including mental health) and wellbeing are likely to achieve better academically. By learning about positive relationships, respect for themselves and others, and behaving appropriately and safely online, they are better able to enjoy their friendships and therefore focus more at school.

We recognise that parents play a vital part in their child's personal and social education and development, so we encourage you to discuss the topics we teach with your child at home as well. We also understand that some families may find aspects of this programme of study sensitive. For this reason, we will make sure you know when we are going to be teaching about puberty and in Y6 about how a baby is conceived and born. This is the only aspect of our Relationships and Sex Education that is not statutory and for which parents have a right of withdrawal. Please speak to the Head of School if you wish to exercise this right.

If further advice or support is required, or if you have any questions or comments about the programme or would like to view the resources, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or the Head of School.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Rundle
Head of School