Mandeville Primary School

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Head Teacher: Cathy Longhurst

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you remember that, shortly before the first lock down back in March, we consulted on an updated Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) policy. The changes to our policy were necessary in order to comply with a change in education law which came into effect in September 2020. Following the consultation, the Governors voted to accept the policy and the contents are now part of the Mandeville curriculum.

All classes across the school will be teaching their RSHE lessons in the last half term. Each class will add the key aspects of their curriculum on the class newsletter.

The policy is available on our website but I thought it would be helpful to include some of the important aspects regarding our legal responsibilities to deliver this curriculum and your parental rights to withdraw you child from certain aspects of it:

Withdrawing from the subjects (section 13)

- *Relationships and health education are statutory at primary level and parents **do not** have the right to withdraw their child from the subjects.*
- *As sex education is not statutory at primary level (other than what must be taught as part of the science curriculum), parents have the right to request to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education curriculum. "Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory Relationships and Sex Education" DfE Guidance p.17*
- *At Mandeville Primary School, as puberty is taught as a statutory requirement of Health Education and covered by our Jigsaw PSHE Programme in the 'Changing Me' unit, we conclude that sex education refers to Human Reproduction, and therefore inform parents of their right to request their child be withdrawn from the PSHE lessons that explicitly teach this i.e. the Jigsaw Changing Me units:*
  - *Year 3, Lesson 2 (Babies)*
  - *Year 4, Lesson 2 (Having a Baby)*
  - *Year 5, Lesson 4 (Conception)*
  - *Year 6, Lesson 3 (conception and birth)*
- *The Head Teacher will discuss with the parent, the benefits of receiving this important education and any adverse effects that withdrawal may have on the pupil – this could include, for example, social and emotional effects of being excluded.*
- *The head teacher will grant a parent's request to withdraw their child from sex education, other than the content that must be taught as part of the science curriculum.*
- *Where a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, the head teacher will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate alternative education.*

In the Early Years and Key Stage One, there is no aspect of the curriculum which is deemed to be "sex education" and therefore children cannot be withdrawn from lessons. The children in Year 2 learn the basic anatomical names for male and female parts of the body which is part of the Science curriculum.

In Key Stage 2, children begin to learn about human reproduction in age appropriate ways. Most of this is part of the science curriculum, but the four lessons stated above are specifically sex education and parental choice can be exercised. **Your child's teacher will inform you, in good time, of when these lessons will be taught**. Please contact your child's teacher if you wish to see the resources and materials that will be used to teach the lesson.

I hope this has been helpful,

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Longhurst
Head Teacher