

GLENDALE INFANT SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Relationship, Health and Sex Education

As I am sure you are aware, all primary schools now have a legal responsibility to provide Relationship Education and Health Education from September 2020. All children will receive lessons designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships. This includes information to help your child stay safe online, in an ever-changing world.

In addition schools have the option to teach age appropriate Sex Education, which is recommended although not mandatory at primary level. We recognise that some parents may be uncomfortable with the thought of their children receiving sex education in primary school. However, as a school we believe it is completely natural for children to have questions about reproduction, their bodies and to be curious about where they came from. In the age of information where children in primary phase have access to the internet through mobile technology we believe it is better that children receive age appropriate answers from safe adults at home and school than it being left to their peers or the internet.

In our school sex education is an opportunity to answer children's healthy questions about where they came from, an opportunity to explore their own stories and to be clear about how a baby is born.

In year 1 we will be delivering a lesson called: Mummy's Bump. This is the only 'Sex education lesson' that will be taught in our Infant School. Whilst it is not a core requirement of the statutory guidance for Relationship Education, we believe it is an essential lesson. This lesson is designed in a specific way which means that it is pupil-led, ensuring the content is tailored to the class. The lesson is focused on pregnancy and covers: where babies live before they are born; how they feed and grow; a brief explanation of how babies are born; and most importantly a discussion about being an older brother or sister, and what it is like having a new baby in the family.

We believe by answering children's questions - which are perfectly natural at this age, especially considering that they will likely be exposed to pregnant parent's having siblings, or aunts, and family friends at their age, we can feed their natural curiosity in a safe way. As a result, rather than the topic becoming a taboo, something that is shameful, instead, we can ensure children continue to come to us for answers that we can answer age appropriately rather than building barriers to addressing the topic which will later have to be overcome.

Should a parent decide that they do not wish their child to take part in this lesson we would ask that they first speak to their class teacher to discuss their concerns. Our teachers will happily explain the context of any of our lessons and explain the reasons why any material is included in the programme. If parents do decide to withdraw their child, they should inform the headteacher in writing, who will find other provision for the child to engage in during the lesson.

I must also highlight that whilst parents have the right to withdraw their child from these lessons, they do not have the right to prevent other children from receiving these lessons or information. We believe it is better for children to hear from safe adults than to hear second hand from their class-mates at break-time.

We believe that successful teaching around RSE can only take place when parents and school work together. Especially, considering we both want children to grow up safe and happy in healthy relationships, with the ability to manage their emotions and speak up when they feel unsafe. Therefore, we are committed to working together with parents.

If you have any questions or would like support in talking to your child at home please feel free to mention it to your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Louise Hopkins (Headteacher)