



# **Relationships and Health Education**

## **Common Questions**

**On the next few pages we will answer some of the common questions we are asked.**

**If you wish to ask anything, it is important that you feel able to do so. We would ask that you email the class teacher with your question.**

**Thank you for all your support.**

**Q. Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the lessons?**

A. Simply, no. We do, however, know that many parents like to have an honest and open discussion with their children prior to the lessons in school. It enables you to be the primary educator in this area and to ensure that your child feels more comfortable in the lessons.

**Q. Are there any books or materials that your recommend for supporting learning in this area?**

A. Yes. There is a book list at the end of this presentation of recommended materials.

**Q. What happens if some of the children in the class find it difficult to discuss the issues with maturity and sensitivity?**

A. This is not uncommon, especially at the start of the first lesson. At Lingfield Primary School, we have outstanding and experienced teachers who ensure that our high expectations for behaviour are met throughout the lessons. Very often, it is nervousness or embarrassment which the children initially have to deal with; this often disappears quickly as the lessons are scientific, interesting and well-paced.

**Q. What happens if a child asks a question that goes beyond the science curriculum or the aspects of PSHE that deal with RHE?**

A. The child is never criticised for asking a question but we explain that the question is one that their parent may need to answer as it deals with subject matters we do not teach them.

**Q. What should I do if I feel that my child will find the lessons difficult due to a Special Educational Need, an experience in their infancy or another reason?**

A. Please do communicate with the school. We are an inclusive, caring school and will do all we can to make the necessary adjustment to ensure that your child learns at the level appropriate to them and in an environment where they feel safe.

**Q. What do you do if a child tells the class something about their parents?**

A. We establish at the start of the first lesson, whilst discussing the private and sensitive nature of this subject, that this should not happen. Experienced teachers know how to redirect a child away from doing this. Children often want to share experiences and anecdotal stories in all lessons so we encourage this whilst maintaining a parent's right to privacy.

**Q. What if I think that my child is too young to be taught the subject matter in their planned lessons?**

A. We know that this does happen and will always want to talk to you and support you. We are not teaching these lessons in isolation: the UK Government has now made statutory these elements of the RHE curriculum and every child in the UK is being taught the same. We aim to arm your child with scientific knowledge and an understanding of what privacy and respect mean. Ignorance is very dangerous and we will do all we can to provide your child with an education that prepares them for life.

**Q. What do I do if I wish to withdraw my child from Sex Education?**

A. The statutory nature of the RHE and science curriculum means that you cannot withdraw your child from any lesson except the final lesson in Y6 that deals with how a baby is made (to understand what an adult relationship is, to describe the human life cycle, to understand human reproduction and to understand how a baby is made, how it grows and how it is born). Every other lesson in the RHE syllabus is statutory. To ask for withdrawal from the final lesson, you would need to write to the headteacher of the school asking for a meeting to discuss your request. As a school, it is our professional judgement that this final lesson maintains age-appropriate learning and fits into the structure of the RHE curriculum.

**Q. What do I do if I am concerned that the lessons may conflict with my family's religious beliefs?**

A. This is another question often asked. The lessons are scientific and nothing more. The children are told that different people have different attitudes towards many aspects of growing up, getting married or entering stable, loving relationships and starting a family. As a school, we do not attempt to contradict your beliefs. We teach tolerance and respect.

**Q. Is there any area of the science or PSHE RHE curriculum that you do not teach and why?**

A. Yes. After discussions involving the Leadership Team, parent representatives and the PSHE Association, we have decided at this point in time not to discuss the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM). FGM is part of Health Education in the Y6 curriculum but as a school we do not currently consider it necessary nor appropriate to include it in the Y6 syllabus. Staff are fully trained to identify indicators of possible FGM and know what to do in these cases. It is a significant and very real issue in some parts of the UK and the wider world.