**Kingsway parents FAQ’s**

1. **Why are we teaching relationships, sex and health education?**

It is important for all children to understand healthy relationships and how their bodies are changing with puberty as it’s happening to children from younger ages. From a safeguarding perspective, it’s important for children to know what private areas are, why they’re private and the importance of consent and legal ages. This will help children to understand right and wrongs of sexual encounters and experiences and hopes to educate students on what is right and wrong on their own bodies. 2013 NAHT survey found that 88% of parents of school-ages pupils want RSE to be taught in schools. National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles published results in the British Medical Journal which found that young people who learned about sex and relationships were less likely to report poor sexual health outcomes. School RSE increased the likelihood of people choosing to have sex for the first time at comparatively later ages and reduced the likelihood of experiencing an STI (FPA 2020).

1. **Who will be delivering RSE?**

Class teachers will deliver RSE sessions and training has been provided by our RSE lead (Miss Carter) who received regular training in line with government guidance. We will provide the children with anonymous boxes for questions to be answered in the individual bubble after the delivering of the RSE session. We will be delivering the session in mixed gender groups as recommended by Herts for Learning and the DFE as all children will be learning the same content. All teachers delivering RSE will be given appropriate training by the DSP (designated safeguarding person) and subject leader.

1. **Why do I have to talk to my child about sex when they are too young?**

Children are less likely to be promiscuous if they have a close relationship with parents and less likely to take risks where there is an open and transparent culture at home. By working together, we can make sure important messages are aligned and not undermined. Children are naturally curious and will be willing to learn and it’s important for children to be enabled with their learning and to normalise sexual language in order to allow them to have open and honest conversations with adults. From a safeguarding perspective, the sexual abuse of children is increasing, nearly a quarter of young adults (24.1%) experienced sexual abuse (including contact and non-contact), by an adult or by a peer during childhood (Radford et al, 2011). We want to ensure that children know what is happening with their bodies and what sexual acts are and that their private parts remain private in order to keep them safe.

1. **How can I talk to my child about sex and relationships education?**

We have published a document by Dr Kathy Weston on how to start difficult conversations with your child. Please give this a read as it is a good resource to use. Also, honesty is important with your child. If you are honest with them then it will be reciprocated and produce trust between you in order to share worries. Please also see the guidance for parents from JIGSAW document. A good tool to use if a child asks you a question is to give a basic answer and then ask, “Did that answer your question?” Often if you use simple explanation that is enough for their curiosity but this allows for you to work with your child to achieve an answer at a pace rather than overloading them with information. Please also feel free to contact us and ask if you have any specific questions regarding RSE and we will always try out best to help you with how to answer.

1. **Does the Department for Education’s guidance state exactly what needs to be taught?**

The guidance sets out the key learning that pupils must receive by the end of their primary education. Schools will decide exactly how they teach the curriculum and what resources they will use. Information about this is in the school policy, at Kingsway we have chosen to follow the recommended Channel 4 Relationships and Sex Education video. Many primary schools currently teach sex education, and it is strongly recommended by the government that this continues. The decision about if and when to teach sex education (which goes beyond the content of the science curriculum) remains a decision that individual primary schools must make.

1. **What are the key themes that will be taught in relationships education in primary school?**

Families and people who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, conception and consent.

1. **What values underpin relationships education?**

The core values include: The importance of stable, loving relationships, respect for all, rights, responsibilities and the law, equality, acceptance of diversity, kindness, generosity, honesty.

1. **Can I request my child to be excused from Relationships and Sex Education.**

Yes. Parents/ carers will be able to request that their child/ren be excused from the Relationships and Sex Education session, however we cannot guarantee that children will not share information or discuss the session with other children either inside or outside of school.

1. **What happens if I chose to excuse my child from Sex Education?**

Parents/carers requesting to excuse their child from sex education will be invited to discuss their concerns with the head teacher and asked to specify which particular aspects of sex education content they wish to withdraw their child from. If you do withdraw your child then you will have to collect your child from school at 1pm on the day that the Relationships and Sex Education session is being held.

1. **Will excusing my child from Sex Education mean they will not learn about sex?**

No. The school cannot guarantee that pupils will not learn about sex from other sources outside the classroom. There are many places that children can get information from including: parents/carers, peers, older siblings and the internet. The accuracy of the information they access will be variable.

The delivery of Sex Education within Relationships and Sex Education ensures that what pupils learn is age and developmentally appropriate, addresses their real questions and is based on important values and the law.

1. **Can I request that my child be excused from lessons about LGBT people and relationships?**

No. The purpose of the Relationships Education is to educate pupils, age appropriately, about relationships and diversity in the world they live in. It is important that pupils know that different families and individuals exist and are respected under the law.

LGBT-inclusive curriculum content is not new: it has been a requirement for all schools under the Equality Act 2010. The new Relationships Education curriculum reinforces this by clarifying that the lessons children receive in school must be inclusive of diverse families and be relevant to all pupils. The teaching must promote equality and respect, present material that is accurate and balanced, and it must be underpinned by legal rights and responsibilities. Content related to LGBT people will therefore be fully integrated into the curriculum, rather than being delivered in stand-alone lessons. Parents/carers will not be able to request that their child/ren be excused from this.

1. **Will family diversity be represented?**

Yes. Families, both in school and in the wider world, sometimes look different from a child’s own family. Pupils will be taught that British society values diversity and that all families deserve respect. Families are characterised by love and care, even though this may be expressed through different traditions and values. In schools, learning about families must be inclusive. The Relationships Education curriculum must allow every child the right to see their family represented and all pupils must be confident and safe to speak about who they live with and who cares for them.

1. **Will schools teach about a range of relationships: marriage, civil partnerships, relationships outside of marriage and same sex relationships?**

Yes. This enables children to understand the importance of a stable, secure and loving environment for family life and will include the range of different family types that can provide this.

Teaching will therefore represent the full range of committed and mutually supportive stable relationships in our society, including religious and civil marriages, civil partnerships, and relationships outside of formal commitment. The range of families represented will include stepfamilies, same-sex parents, grandparents as parents, adoptive families, and more.

If you have any questions still that haven’t been answered through our policy or FAQ’s please feel free to call us at school and we would be more than happy to answer your questions. At Kingsway, we pride ourselves in ensuring that parents are well informed on what their children will be learning and we will always strive to support you however we can.

**Links to curriculum websites**

**Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

**Physical health and mental wellbeing**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/physical-health-and-mental-wellbeing-primary-and-secondary>

**Relationships and health education guides for parents**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

**Equality act**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>