



### *Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Consultation*

Dear Parents and Carers

As a part of your child's education experience at Haxby Road Academy, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught program of Personal, Social and Emotional development (PHSE) education that gives children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives both now and in the future.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes were meant to come into effect in September 2020 and all schools were required to comply with the updated requirements. However, due to Covid 19, schools have been able to delay this until the summer term 2021. The statutory guidance can be found at:

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

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children the information, skills and positive values to have safe, happy relationships and help them to take responsibility for their own well-being.

Consequently, from Summer 2021, Relationships, along with Health Education, will be statutory and form part of the National Curriculum. However, the DFE continue to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education program tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Where schools provide sex education at key stage 1 and 2, parents will have the right to withdraw their child from sex education but not from statutory Relationships Education, Health Education or what is taught in the Science National Curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our children based on their:

- Age
- Physical and Emotional Maturity
- Religious and Cultural Backgrounds
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Whilst I'm sure there will be difference of opinion about this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our schools decision on when and how certain content is covered, and enable us to reach a general consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would appreciate your views on our draft policy for Relationships and Sex Education (SRE).