

9 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

RSE and Health Education

We are very proud of the diversity and inclusivity which is demonstrated at John Willmott School, our affiliation with UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award promotes all students feeling welcome and happy.

School Diversity Week is 21-25 June and as such we have planned a whole half term of learning opportunities around being 'Just Like Us' to further explore tolerance and diversity. These sessions will be delivered in form time; assemblies; through Enrichment on 23 June and also through LORIC sessions on 16 and 30 June. Students will be encouraged to consider a range of topics as varied as: race; gender; disabilities; sexuality and sexism. The link to the ATLP RSE policy is here

<https://atlp.org.uk/files/2020/10/ATLP-Secondary-School-RSE-and-Health-Education-Policy-2020-FINAL.pdf>.

Government guidelines outline that, from the age of 11, it is compulsory for all schools to provide an RSE and health education curriculum. At our school, we believe that it is important to provide our pupils with a thorough and balanced curriculum, including age-appropriate information about sex and relationships. The details of what will be taught to the various year groups is detailed in the school's RSE and Health Education Policy, which can be accessed on our school website or in hard copy via our school office.

Though schools must provide RSE and health education for pupils from the age of 11, up until the age of 19, only aspects of the science national curriculum are compulsory for pupils to learn. Therefore, as parents, you are entitled to request that your child be removed from sex education lessons up to and until three terms before they turn 16-years-old. After that point, if your child wishes to receive sex education, the school will make arrangements to provide them with sex education during one of those terms.

Requests for withdrawal should be submitted in writing to myself, the headteacher, who will discuss this with you and your child's teacher and determine an appropriate substitute for these lessons. In most instances, children will be provided with self-directed reading or exercises which they can complete under the supervision of a trainee teacher. If you have any concerns or queries about your child's participation in these lessons, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's class teacher to discuss these.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Peters
Headteacher