



THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Rock Road
Storrington
West Sussex
RH20 3AA
Headteacher: Mr L. McDonald
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs E. Hopkins
SENCOs: Mr L. McDonald & Mrs R. Stender

Tel: 01903 740176
Email: office@thakehamps.co.uk
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‘At Thakeham we CARE’

Courage. Ambition. Respect. Enjoyment.

15th November 2023

RSHE (Relationships, Social and Health Education and Sex Education)

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Thakeham Primary School we are committed to providing all pupils with a planned Personal, Social, Health, Education (PSHE) programme to enable them to acquire the skills they need to develop an understanding of themselves, empathy and the ability to work with others to form and maintain good relationships. A full outline of our PSHE and RSHE curriculum is attached to this letter.

The Government made Relationships Education and Health Education statutory for all schools from September 2020 and have produced some information leaflets for parents to explain what the curriculum consists of and is trying to achieve. To view these resources, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>.

As part of the school's PSHE and RSHE programme, children learn about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, healthy relationships and keeping themselves safe both on and offline. It is best practice to teach these themes across the entire academic year rather than reserve specific points for them. However, please see below for specific information around Sex Education which we teach in Years 5 and 6 in the summer term.

As they progress through primary school, they will cover the following aspects of Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education

- Pupils in all year groups from Reception to Year 6 are taught that some body parts are private and that their body belongs to them.





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- Pupils in all year groups are taught about what physical contact is acceptable or unacceptable and that they have a right to say no both on and offline (consent). They are taught that they should tell an adult if they are worried. This is vital to support the work we do in keeping all pupils safe. To support us in delivering this message to the pupils, we use information from the NSPCC Underwear Rule campaign. You can find out more at <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>.
- In Year 5 pupils start to learn that their body and emotions will change as they get older and continue to build on learning about the key components of a healthy relationship and how to keep themselves safe both on and off line. This learning continues in Year 6.
- In Year 5 pupils learn about all the external and internal genitalia and the ways in which children grow and develop in puberty both physically and emotionally.
- In Year 6 pupils further develop their understanding of the physical and emotional changes they go through at puberty and about human reproduction.
- As part of the statutory curriculum, in all year groups pupils learn about diversity within and between families.

Teaching staff approach this aspect of the curriculum very sensitively and are aware of how it contributes to pupil’s development; supporting them to develop healthy relationships, keep themselves safe and having factually correct information and the skills to positively manage the physical and emotional changes that will happen as they grow into hopefully happy, confident and responsible young people.

You may find that your children come home and would like to discuss themes covered in school. Parents and carers play a vital role in talking to their child(ren) about this important part of growing up and keeping themselves safe. If you need any support with these types of conversations, do contact either your child’s class teacher, Mrs Stender, Mrs Hopkins or Mr





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McDonald.

Some aspects of this curriculum are delivered through the National Curriculum for Science and some through the PSHE/RSHE curriculum. From September 2020, parents can no longer withdraw children from the Relationships Education and Health Education. At Thakeham Primary School, we have decided to teach Sex Education in Years 5 and 6, which parents **will still be able to withdraw their children from**. We will be teaching this in the summer term. Mrs Hopkins will send home a letter inviting you to an information event ahead of time. She will provide parents the opportunity to review the resources prior to teaching the lessons in order to help you make an informed decision.

Although parents/carers have the right to request to withdraw their child from any or all of Sex Education, it is our aim to encourage parents to see the value of RSE learning and its contribution to keeping children safe, developing their emotional, social and physical wellbeing and for promoting equality and social justice.

Should a parent decide that they do not wish their child to take part in any of the Year 5 or 6 sex education lessons, we would ask that they first speak to me as Headteacher to discuss concerns. I will discuss the request with the parent/carer to fully understand and address any concerns/objections to the content of the curriculum. If parents/carers do decide to withdraw their child, they should inform me in writing and the school will keep a record of this.

If you would like to see the school's Relationships and Sex Education Policy, please visit the school website or ask me for a copy.

Best wishes,

Will McDonald
Headteacher

