

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Headteacher
Mrs S Stace

Tel: (01442) 862729
Fax: (01442) 874467
e-mail: admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk
www.westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk



Westfield Primary School
& Nursery
Durrants Lane
Berkhamsted
Herts. HP4 3PJ

Dear Parents and Carers,

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) at Westfield

We are guided by the Department of Education about how we teach pupils about relationship and sex education (RSE). All children in England are required to be provided with knowledge and understanding of how the human body changes. In addition, they are to be encouraged to develop understanding and attitudes which will help them to form positive relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

We believe that if young people start their transition into adulthood with good information and the confidence and knowledge to understand what is happening to them, they will hopefully grow into confident and healthy adults able to make positive choices. This can start with learning the basics about growing up and the sessions in school may reinforce what you are already doing at home.

The key aims of RSE are to:

- Provide an inclusive framework in which age appropriate and sensitive discussions can take place.
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of their body, its development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence, and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

We hope you will agree with us that this work is vitally important for children and that it needs to be done age-appropriately. At Westfield, we use a scheme of work called Jigsaw to teach PSHE (including health education and relationship and sex education). We believe the Jigsaw Programme gives us a secure framework within which to teach our children these vital skills. I've attached a leaflet, produced by Jigsaw, which details what our children are taught and when, which I encourage you to read. Not only will it inform you about what your child will learn in school, it also has some helpful advice about how to have conversations at home to support your children with their development in this area.

All health education and relationship education covered by the Jigsaw Programme is compulsory. There is a very small amount of learning (about human reproduction) which can be taught, at our discretion (in years 4, 5 & 6). This is taught in the summer term. For the reasons already explained, we believe it is in our children's best interests to learn



about this at our school and we hope parents will agree. However, you should know that parents have the right to withdraw their children from these lessons/parts of lessons.

Our RSE policy (available on our website) explains this in more detail, including what you need to do if you do wish to withdraw your child.

Please contact my PSHE lead, Kate Moody, by emailing:
admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Suzanne Stace