



Wilbarston CEVC Primary School

Part of the Montsaye Community Learning Partnership
School Lane, Wilbarston, Market Harborough, Leics, LE168QN

Telephone 01536 771252

Fax 01536 772051

Email: head@wilbarston.northants-ecl.gov.uk

bursar@wilbarston.northants-ecl.gov.uk

www.wilbarston.northants.sch.uk

Headteacher - Mrs Andrea Green BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Thursday 4th April 2019

Dear Parents,

On Parents' Evenings in the I.T. suite we held a consultation with you all on Sex and Relationships Education in our school. There were documents to explain what exactly is taught, the booklet that is completed in Sex Education and we asked parents for their views on those. We explained that we teach **only** content from the National Curriculum Year 5 Science programme of study to our children because we believe, knowing the social and emotional maturity of our children, that that is what is appropriate for their understanding and that you will discuss at home anything further which they may raise. The content we teach consists of puberty, sexual reproduction in animals including humans and the growth of a baby.

The 2019 guidance from DFE states that primary schools *"should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born"* (DFE 2019). Another reason that we have chosen not to go beyond this is that we also know that soon in Year 7 pupils come across this topic again and will learn more. However, we did want to know and consult with you to see if you thought there were other related topics that we should teach or discuss.

The consultation clearly shows that parents do not wish for us to go beyond the Science content. We do not have to have a Sex Education Policy as we do not go beyond the Science content but we do have one because we know parents regard this teaching as "Sex Education". There is a copy of our draft policy for this year on the website under Curriculum.

As we stated on that evening we are going to now ensure that this teaching (the life cycle of humans including puberty, how a baby is conceived, grows and is born) occurs in the **last half term of Year 5**. As stated above, it is included in the Year 5 Science Curriculum as part of the statutory National Curriculum (see link below) under "life cycle of animals". In previous year this has been taught in Year 6, mainly due to the structure of classes. However, from now on it will be taught in Year 5. Relationships education to include the only teaching on loving and committed relationships will be taught in Year 6. This year, as we have changed it, **both Year 5 and Year 6** will have the same puberty and reproduction teaching in Science.

Also, as mentioned on the evenings, we use the school nurse and the specialist teacher from Robert Smythe to support the teaching of the science curriculum. The teacher also talks to pupils about body image and self- esteem as part of her unit of work. We will email out a letter at least a month before any teaching takes place. We always book early and most teaching takes place in June.

On the consultation evenings there were some comments from parents so here they are with answers if needed:

Please can you let us know when it will happen so we can prepare for questions.

We always send out an email (used to be a letter) to confirm when this will be. You will have at least a month's notice. *Teaching is usually in June.*

Boys should have the same information as girls.

Boys do have the **same lessons** and information as girls – they do hear about puberty changes to girls and boys. The girls have **extra** time to talk to the nurse about periods as many girls are just starting their periods and can ask personal questions. We will make sure the nurse shows boys sanitary wear whilst she talks about puberty and give boys a chance to ask their own questions too.

Please discuss lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and queer (LGBTQ).

In Year 5/6 relationships education pupils learn about committed relationships including homosexual relationships. Lower down the school children learn that families can be different including LGBTQ at an age appropriate level e.g. some families have two mummies. This is not covered in depth at the primary age but we are aware that under the Equality Act 2010 that schools should not discriminate in any way and so we are inclusive when discussing relationships. We do not promote marriage, we know that some of our families do not contain married couples, but we do promote committed relationships in line with our Christian foundation. We do talk about how family make ups can be different to one another. The National Curriculum Science content does not cover homosexual activity so this is not discussed at the primary age phase.

Can you talk about sexting and social media?

We show the NSPCC video "I saw Alex's willy" as part of our online safety teaching in Year 5/6. This is a cartoon video showing a Y4/5 boy taking a picture of his willy and sending to his friend who then sends it on. It is a good way to tackle this – you can find the video by using Google. We do already address social media in our online safety lessons; every class has a lesson dedicated to this in every term, in addition to national online safety focus days and weeks.

Can you remind older children not to talk about sex education with younger ones?

We address this by telling children we teach them about this topic because they are old enough to understand and not worry about the information, but that younger children might find it worrying or confusing. We remind them that we are trusting them because they are more mature and know what to say and not to say around the younger children. We also tell them that if we find out they have said something inappropriate to younger children that we will involve parents straight away. This has worked in the past but we do rely on children and parents to let us know if something happens or is said. We would ask that you also talk to your child about not sharing this with younger children to reinforce it.

Can you speak about healthy friendships and relationships i.e. recognising unhealthy relationships?

We talk about being a good friend and what that involves i.e. our own character, our responsibilities and the values we hold. We will look at the opposite too i.e. friendships which make them feel unhappy or uncomfortable and what to do. We will discuss appropriate boundaries in friendships and online relationships too. Children will know how to get help and who to talk to if they are worried.

Can you show a variety of sex organs as we develop not just white hair free vulvas and circumcised penises?

The Powerpoint has been revised by our specialist teacher. It is on our website under Curriculum, Sex and Relationships Education for you to see. The diagrams are textbook style. Secondary schools are tackling this issue of stereo-typing of sexual images and so this will be covered there.

The main resources used in our teaching are now on our website if you click under Key Information, then Curriculum and then Sex and Relationships.

Thank you for your comments and if you need any more information please ring, email or pop in to see us at school.

Yours truly,

Andrea Green.
Headteacher.