

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Department for Education made Relationships and Health Education (RSHE) compulsory in all primary schools in 2020. The statutory guidance can be found here and on our website:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1019542/Relationships\\_Education\\_Relationships\\_and\\_Sex\\_Education\\_RSE\\_and\\_Health\\_Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1019542/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

At Crofton Junior School, RSHE is taught through Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons using the Jigsaw programme. For schools in England, Jigsaw is fully compliant with the statutory Relationships and Health Education guidance (2019).

We are currently reviewing our RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities

As part of this development the school is in the process of consulting with parents, staff and governors that will help to inform our school's decisions on when and how certain content is covered. We have attached our updated draft school policy for Jigsaw PSHE (including RSHE) for your information. Please review this policy and provide any feedback on the parent/carer survey form, which will be sent home as a paper copy this week.

### **What must primary schools teach in Relationships Education, Health Education and Sex Education?**

For Primary aged children this includes curriculum content under two headings:

<b>Relationships Education</b>	<b>Health Education</b>
Families and people who care for me Caring Friendships Respectful Relationships Online Relationships Being safe	Mental wellbeing Internet safety and harms Physical health and fitness Healthy Eating Drugs, alcohol and tobacco Health and prevention Basic first aid Changing adolescent body

Please see the overview of the Jigsaw content taught across Year 3 to Year 6 on our website under curriculum information/approaches to PSHE.

### **Sex Education**

At Crofton Junior School, we define Sex Education as relating to human reproduction and intend to teach this alongside the Health Education content as part of the Jigsaw unit 'Changing Me'.

### **What will my child actually be taught?**

Jigsaw's 'Changing Me' unit is taught over a period of 6 weeks, in the second half of the summer term. Each year group will be taught appropriate to their age and developmental stage, building on the previous years' learning.

Please note: at no point will a child be taught something that is inappropriate; and if a question from a child arises and the teacher feels it would be inappropriate to answer, (for example, because of its mature or explicit nature), the child will be encouraged to write their question down. We will then contact the parent/carer so that this question can be addressed at home. The question will not be answered to the child or class if it is outside the remit of that year group's programme.

The Changing Me Puzzle is all about coping positively with change and includes:

Ages 7-8 How babies grow and how boys' and girls' bodies change as they grow older. Introduction to puberty and menstruation.

Ages 8-9 Internal and external reproductive body parts. Recap about puberty and menstruation. Conception explained in simple terms.

Ages 9-10 Puberty for boys and girls in more detail including the social and emotional aspects of becoming an adolescent. Conception explained in simple biological terms.

Ages 10-11 Puberty for boys and girls revisited. Understanding conception to the birth of a baby. Becoming a teenager.

All lessons are taught using correct terminology, child-friendly language, diagrams and videos (all provided through the Jigsaw programme).

We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that none of the teaching materials or strategies should shock pupils. All lessons will be taught in a strictly non-judgemental and non-biased manner to allow your child the opportunity to consider the information and develop their own values, attitudes and opinions about the topic. We would encourage you to discuss your child's relationships and sex education with them at home. This is an opportunity for you to share your family values in relation to the topics, building strong channels of communication about emotions, the human body and relationships with your child.

In the Summer 1 half term, all parents and carers will be contacted to remind and advise of the content covered in the Changing Me unit (taught in the Summer 2 term). This will give you time to ask class teachers any questions that you may have in advance of the unit. You may also wish to discuss some of the content that will be covered with your child in advance of the lessons.

### **Does my child have to take part in RSHE?**

All schools have a statutory duty to teach pupils the aspects of Relationship Education and Health Education and pupils **cannot** be withdrawn from these lessons. Please note that puberty and menstruation are part of Health Education.

Sex Education is not compulsory in Key Stage 2. As we have made the decision to teach Sex Education as part of the 'Changing Me' unit, pupils may only be withdrawn from specific lessons relating to human reproduction e.g. conception and birth. Withdrawal from these lessons must be put in writing and addressed to Mr Birdsall (the withdrawal form is in the appendix of the policy).

A parent or carer who wishes to withdraw their child from part or all of the Sex Education curriculum will be listened to and respected. We will discuss the importance of this education with parents and carers, explicitly sharing the benefits of participation and the potential issues associated with being withdrawn from the learning, but ultimately, we will support the parent/carer's right to withdraw their child from these lessons.

### **How to get more information**

The school website has documents that will be helpful for you to read, such as:

- Government Statutory Guidance on Relationships, Health and Sex Education in Schools
- Our school PSHE/RSE Policy
- Curriculum Coverage
- RSHE a Guide for Parents and Carers
- What Does Jigsaw Teach About LGBTQ+ Relationships?

### **Parent Consultation**

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and all stakeholders within it and as such we need your feedback to help us do this. We would like to invite you to:

- Take the opportunity to view our draft policy, website information and curriculum intentions  
Please visit the school website then click on Curriculum Information/Approaches to PSHE.
- Complete a short questionnaire and return it to school by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February. You will receive this as a hard copy from school this week. This is an anonymous survey but you are welcome to ass your name if you feel it is appropriate.

If you have any specific queries regarding your child, please arrange to speak to their class teacher.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Henwood (PSHE (including RSHE) Lead)