



# WHISTON WILLIS PRIMARY ACADEMY

18<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a school, we successfully implement the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum through the use of Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE. Jigsaw is a well respected and highly valued scheme of learning that is used in many primary schools nationally due to its mindful approach to issues taught.

PSHE lessons build children's emotional literacy, self-esteem, and knowledge of who they are and how they relate to each other and the world in a positive and healthy way.

During the Summer term, the units we are teaching are about Relationships and Changing Me. These units of learning incorporate 'Relationships and Sex Education'.

From September 2020, there have been some key changes to the expectations on schools to deliver Relationships and Sex Education. As a school we are required to provide parents with a copy of the school policy for this and a clear outline of the content of our proposed approach.

**This information is available via the school website and we are offering parents an opportunity to respond to this information through a consultation process which is outlined on the school website. This consultation period will run until Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

The link below provides key information regarding the changes in place from September 2020 for Relationships Education to be statutory within primary education and the approach recommended by Jigsaw for successful implementation.

<https://www.jigsawpshe.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/RSE-Guide-for-Parents-and-Carers-leaflet-2019-2020.pdf>

As part of the Changing Me Puzzle includes, in every year group, 2 or 3 lessons are included to help children understand the changes puberty brings and how human reproduction happens. There is a very serious safeguarding aspect to this work and obviously the younger year groups are not looking at these issues directly and explicitly but rather learning correct terminology for body parts and doing the foundation work for later year groups. The Years 5 and 6 lessons look more fully at puberty and human reproduction.

At Whiston Willis Primary Academy, we believe that:

- Knowledge empowers and protects children as long as it is age-appropriate. At secondary school, sex education is statutory and we believe that primary schools should prepare children with accurate knowledge about puberty and human reproduction before they transfer to secondary school.
- Correct terminology for body parts should be introduced early to normalise this biological vocabulary and to support safeguarding. These words are not used in isolation but always in conjunction, ensuring children know these are private parts of their bodies.
- Puberty should be introduced gently in Y3 because some girls may start their periods early and it is necessary to prepare them for this, so they aren't scared or worried.
- Conception to be introduced age-appropriately in Y4 in the context of understanding why our bodies change during puberty. Understanding of Human Reproduction, conception and puberty is built upon in Y5 and then puberty, conception and childbirth is age-appropriately covered in Y6.

**For our mixed year group classes, children will be taught these lessons in separate year groups. This is to ensure that children receive age-appropriate lessons, in a small group situation.**



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Sex education at primary school is NOT statutory. "Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools." Although, "the Department continues to recommend....that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the pupils."

If you wish to have further information/discussion or to withdraw your child from Sex Education, please can you ring the school or speak to your child's class teacher by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021. If we do not hear from you before this date, we will take it that you are happy for your child's involvement in these sessions.

The table below provides you with a brief summary of the 'Changing Me' unit in respect to what is taught. Please note, the puberty work in this unit fulfils the requirements that sit under the 'Changing Adolescent Body' strand of statutory Health Education, and parents cannot withdraw their children from this.

Puberty and Human Reproduction in Jigsaw 3-11		
FS	Growing Up	How we have changed since we were babies
Y1	My changing body	Understanding that growing and changing is natural and happens to everybody at different rates
	Boys' and girls' bodies	Appreciating the parts of the body that make us different and using the correct names for them
Y2	The changing me	Where am I on the journey from young to old, and what changes can I be proud of?
	Boys and girls	Differences between boys and girls – how do we feel about them? Which parts of me are private?
Y3	Outside body changes	How our bodies need to change so they can make babies when we grow up – outside changes and how we feel about them
	Inside body changes	How our bodies need to change so they can make babies when we grow up – inside changes and how we feel about them (animations used – shorter version Female and Male Reproductive Systems)

Puberty and Human Reproduction in Jigsaw 3-11		
Y4	Having a baby	The choice to have a baby, the parts of men and women that make babies and – in simple terms – <b>how this happens</b> (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
	Girls and puberty	How a girl's body changes so that she can have a baby when she's an adult – including <b>menstruation</b> (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
Y5	Puberty for girls	Physical changes and feelings about them – importance of looking after yourself (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
	Puberty for boys	Developing understanding of changes for both sexes – reassurance and exploring feelings (animations used – the Male Reproductive System)
	Conception	<b>Understanding the place of sexual intercourse in a relationship and how it can lead to conception and the wonder of a new life</b> (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
Y6	Puberty	Consolidating understanding of physical and emotional changes and how they affect us (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
	Girl talk / boy talk	A chance to ask questions and reflect (single sex) (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
	Conception to birth	<b>The story of pregnancy and birth</b> (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)

A guide to RSHE for Parents and Carers created by Jigsaw has been attached alongside this letter.

Thanks for your continued support,

Mrs A. Askew (PSHE Lead)