



Monday 22nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a part of your child's education at Thornhill, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. This is the curriculum subject that gives children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential, both now and in the future.

What does the current guidance mean for schools?

The Department for Education (DfE) guidance (2020) contains details of Relationships and Health Education, which are now statutory subjects. It sets out what children should be taught by the end of primary school. Schools can decide when the specific content is taught, so lessons are suitable for the needs of the children. Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is not statutory although the DfE recommends that primary schools have a planned RSE programme and schools are legally required to have relationships and RSE policy - our RSE policy is on the website: <https://www.thornhill.islington.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Relationships-and-Sex-Education-Policy.pdf>

The aim of the guidance is keeping children safe in the modern world and engaging with the wider community, so children learn about physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety. Most schools have been teaching these life skills for years; the guidance provides consistency across schools so children have a common core curriculum to develop skills and values to live healthier, safer lives.

How will PSHE and RSE lessons be delivered?

We will be teaching some of Health Education and RSE in the summer term. Teaching will take place in a safe learning environment underpinned by our school ethos and values. Pupils will be given opportunities to ask questions to further their understanding and find out more about what affects them personally.

What if I have questions or would like more information?

For more information about the PSHE curriculum at Thornhill, please refer to the PSHE curriculum overviews on our school website: <http://www.thornhill.islington.sch.uk/curriculum-maps/>. We will also invite parents to a virtual curriculum session on Thursday 22nd April. The time of this session will be provided in due course. This will be a live opportunity to understand the purpose and content of the curriculum.

Parents can request that their child is withdrawn from some or all of sex education within RSE; in this case parents will be invited to discuss with the Head. The science curriculum includes human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from. We suggest finding out accurate information from us before making such a decision.

You will receive an invitation and a link to the parent session. In the meantime, please see our website and if you have any questions, you are welcome to email them to thornhill@thornhill.islington.sch.uk by Wednesday 24th March.

Yours sincerely,

Francesca May
(PSHE leader)

