



Oakmeadow CE Primary School Bayston Hill Shrewsbury Shropshire SY3 0NU Tel No: 01743 875020

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16th November 2020

Dear Parent/carers,

## **Relationships Education**

As you may be aware, Relationships Education has been made statutory in all primary schools in England, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state funded schools from September 2020. We have been working hard at Oakmeadow to develop our PSHE curriculum to encompass RSE to meet the new statutory requirements and also importantly to cater for the needs of our children here.

Last academic year, parents were invited to attend a focus group session to help us to develop our ideas and share our draft curriculum. Thank you to those parents and governors that attended. The meeting was a very positive experience which has enabled us to work on the ideas discussed and finalise an approach which we feel meets the needs of our children.

Our focus at Oakmeadow is on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships and relationships with other children and adults. We start with pupils being taught about what a relationship is, what a friendship is and what family means and who can support them and keep them safe.

In line with our values, we teach children how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect, the importance of truthfulness, honesty, permission seeking and the concept of personal privacy. Establishing personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe contact are the forerunners of teaching about consent, which takes place at secondary.

We talk explicitly about the features of healthy friendships, family relationships and other relationships which young children are likely to encounter. Drawing attention to these in a range of contexts should enable pupils to form a strong early understanding of the features of relationships that are likely to lead to happiness and security. This will also help them to recognise any less positive relationships when they encounter them.

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TSTANDING 2016 We address online relationships as a main focus as many of our children use the internet. We advise on online safety and appropriate behaviour. We discuss how data is shared and used in all contexts including online, making reference to apps and programs the children may encounter.

We discuss how families may look different to one another either in school or in the wider world but that they should respect those differences and know that other people's families are also characterised by love and care.

The national curriculum for science also includes subject content in related areas from Key stage 1, such as all the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. We refer to all body parts using the correct language so that children are factually aware and able to refer to them accurately should they ever need to report anything.

Through our RSE curriculum we teach pupils how to recognise abuse, in an age appropriate way, through focussing on boundaries and the understanding that they have the right over their own bodies. We draw in external support of agencies such as the NSPCC to support with this.

We believe that it is important that the transition phase before moving to Secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The DfE continues to recommend therefore that 'all primary schools should have a Sex Education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the pupils'. We support this, and in Upper Key stage 2 through our planned curriculum, we aim to ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on the knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for Science – how a baby is conceived and born. As parents/carers you have the right at primary school to withdraw your child from the sex education element of this curriculum. If you wish to do this, please write to Mrs Whelan, the headteacher, to communicate this who may discuss this further with you to ensure your wishes are understood and clarified. You are more than welcome to come to see the resources we use with the children before making a decision about this - if so please contact the school office and we will arrange a suitable time.

More information on our PSHE curriculum is available on our website under the curriculum pages and if you have any further questions or queries feel free to contact me,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Hill **Deputy Headteacher** 

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