

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a part of your child's education at Villiers, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education 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.

I am writing to let you know that, after half term, your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. Lessons will include: Healthy relationships, including friendships; families; growing and changing, including puberty; personal hygiene; changing feelings; becoming more independent; keeping safe; developing self-esteem and confidence. Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions.

Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education objectives which link to the national curriculum as part of their science learning. This includes all the information on puberty and how the human body changes.

The PSHE Association states,

'Teaching about puberty before children experience it is essential to ensure that pupils' physical, emotional and learning needs are met and that they have the correct information about how to take care of their bodies and keep themselves safe.'

Ofsted's PSHE lead, Janet Palmer HMI, has said:

'If pupils are kept ignorant of their human, physical and sexual rights... they are not being adequately safeguarded.'

In order to keep pupils safe, it is vital that they learn about puberty before it happens. NHS advice states that puberty can begin as early as 8 for girls and 9 for boys. We aim to teach children about puberty in Year 4 and Year 6.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or any part of the Relationships Education, other than learning about reproduction and human development within national curriculum science. However, we would urge any parents and carers considering withdrawing their child from these lessons to consider what is being taught, how it is being taught and how important this education is for all children.

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website: <https://www.villiersprimaryschool.co.uk/pshe> for more detail about our PSHE curriculum.

All PSHE teaching takes place will take place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

Please complete the form below if you are happy for your child to take part in our PSHE lessons around this topic. Alternatively, complete on the following link:

Yours sincerely,

Child name: _____

Tick **one**.

I **do** consent for my child to take part in RSE lessons.

I **do not** consent for my child to take part in RSE lessons.

Signed: _____