

Parents Rights

Information for Parents and Carers

PSHE, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

At the Federation of Broughton and West Tytherley Primary Schools, we believe that working openly and positively with parents and carers is an important part of providing high-quality PSHE, Relationships and Health Education.

Our PSHE curriculum is taught through SCARF – Safe, Caring, Achieving, Resilient and Friendly. Through SCARF, children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to build healthy relationships, understand and manage their emotions, keep themselves safe and healthy, respect others and make positive choices.

We recognise that parents and carers may have questions about which aspects of Relationships, Health and Sex Education are statutory and whether they have the right to withdraw their child from particular lessons. We hope the following information provides clear guidance.

Statutory Government Guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) publishes statutory guidance for schools on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education . This guidance explains what schools are required to teach and the rights of parents and carers.

The revised statutory guidance came into effect on 1 September 2026.

Parents and carers can access the full guidance here:

Department for Education:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6970e7e67e827090d02d42e0/Relationships_education_relationships_and_sex_education_RSE_and_health_education_for_intro_1_September_2026_.pdf

What is statutory in primary school?

Relationships Education and Health Education are statutory in primary schools. This means that all primary-aged pupils are taught these aspects of the curriculum and parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from them.

Parents also cannot withdraw their child from content that forms part of the National Curriculum for Science, including relevant science teaching about puberty and sexual reproduction.

At Broughton and West Tytherley, these areas are carefully planned and taught in an age-appropriate and sensitive way through our SCARF curriculum and other relevant curriculum areas.

What can parents withdraw their child from?

Sex Education beyond the requirements of Relationships Education, Health Education and the National Curriculum for Science is not compulsory in primary schools.

Schools may, however, choose to provide additional, age-appropriate Sex Education where they believe this will support children's learning and prepare them appropriately for growing up.

Where a primary school provides this additional Sex Education, parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from some or all of this provision.

At Broughton and West Tytherley, our Year 6 pupils are taught the SCARF Making Babies lesson. This contains additional Sex Education beyond the statutory primary curriculum. Therefore, parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from this additional Sex Education content.

How do I request withdrawal?

If you are considering withdrawing your child from additional Sex Education, we ask that you arrange an appointment with our Headteacher, Mrs Macey, before making your final decision.

This provides an opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns you may have and for the school to explain:

- what will be taught;
- which elements are statutory and which are additional Sex Education;
- why the teaching is included within our curriculum;
- how lessons are made age-appropriate and sensitive;
- the potential benefits of children receiving the teaching; and
- the possible implications of withdrawing a child from the lesson.

The school will keep an appropriate record of this discussion.

In accordance with the statutory guidance, where a parent of a primary-aged pupil requests withdrawal from additional Sex Education, the request will be granted. This does not include Relationships Education, Health Education or content taught as part of the National Curriculum for Science.

Where a child is withdrawn, the school will ensure that they receive appropriate and purposeful education during this time.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

As part of our commitment to safeguarding children, pupils are also taught age-appropriate information relating to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

FGM is illegal in the UK and is recognised as a form of child abuse. Teaching is handled carefully and sensitively, with the purpose of helping children understand that their bodies belong to them, recognise unsafe situations and know how and where to seek help.

We recognise that parents may understandably wish to know more about how sensitive areas such as this are approached. Parents are therefore strongly encouraged to attend our parent information meeting

before the Year 6 lessons begin in Summer 2, where the content and resources can be explained and discussed.

If you have questions about whether a particular element forms part of statutory Relationships or Health Education, National Curriculum Science or additional Sex Education, please speak to the school before requesting withdrawal. We will be happy to explain this clearly.

Your right to know what your child is being taught

We believe that parents should understand what their children are learning and why.

We therefore aim to make our PSHE and RSE curriculum as transparent as possible. Information about our curriculum, including our PSHE/RSE policy and curriculum overview, is available on the website.

Some SCARF teaching materials cannot be published directly on our website because they are protected by copyright and licensing restrictions. However, this does not prevent parents from seeing the materials we use.

Parents and carers are welcome to request an opportunity to view relevant lesson plans, teaching resources, books and videos used with their child's year group. An appointment can also be arranged with the PSHE Lead if you would like to discuss the curriculum or any concerns in greater detail.

Further information about our approach, curriculum and arrangements for parental withdrawal can be found within our Federation PSHE/RSE Policy.

Further information for parents

The Department for Education has also produced a shorter guide specifically for parents of primary-aged children:

Understanding Relationships and Health Education in your child's primary school

This provides an accessible overview of Relationships and Health Education and may be helpful if you would like further information.

Working in partnership

We appreciate that Relationships, Health and Sex Education can include sensitive topics and that families may have questions about what their children will learn.

Our aim is always to work openly, respectfully and in partnership with parents and carers, while ensuring that we meet our statutory responsibilities and provide children with the knowledge and skills they need to be healthy, safe, confident and respectful as they grow.

If you have any questions about our PSHE or RSE curriculum, please contact the school. We would be very happy to discuss the curriculum with you or arrange for you to view the relevant teaching materials.

Louise Hudgell

PSHE Lead