



March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Department for Education has announced changes to Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE) statutory guidance. These changes will come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. Due to the impact of Covid-19 this has now been extended to the Summer Term 2021.

In light of these changes, we are reviewing our curriculum and policy, so we can be sure our provision is appropriate for our pupils based on:

- Age and maturity levels, as well as their cultural and religious backgrounds
- The values of our school community
- Every pupil's learning needs
- What pupils need to know to be healthy and safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world
  - What pupils need to know in order to be prepared for puberty and give them an understanding of, and the importance of, health and hygiene
  - The importance of developing feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
  - Creating a positive culture around issues of safe loving relationships

As a school, we have already agreed that we will only teach elements of Sex Education as outlined in the Primary Science curriculum.

At Widnes Academy we use the scheme ThoughtBox to support our PSHE curriculum. We chose this as it allows children time to reflect and think about areas of the curriculum being taught, using a 'Think & Thrive, Triple Wellbeing Curriculum.' This is a 3-year rolling programme, of which we are currently using second year topics.

Our PSHE curriculum underpins our whole school ethos and in addition to this, is taught in discrete lessons. To help ensure our PSHE curriculum incorporates not only the statutory guidance, but also our school's needs, we are consulting parents.

Aspiring and Achieving





## Stage 1 - On line consultation due to Covid-19 we are unable to offer any face to face consultations or workshops

To help you understand the curriculum requirements we need to meet, please take a look at attached

- Statutory Objectives set out from PSHE Association which is recommended by the DfE.
- Our PSHE long term overview, in which we use ThoughtBox to support our PSHE curriculum
- Draft RSE policy for consultation
- Parent Overview of PSHE and Relationships Education –
- Frequently asked questions and parent guidance from DfE

Details of how to access these materials will be shared via Parent App and parents will also have an opportunity to respond to our proposed curriculum via Parent App, which will be available from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. If you would prefer hard copies of these documents then please contact the school office before end of term on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**For EYFS we will continue to follow the Development Matters guidance which incorporates Making Relationships strand within Personal, Social and Emotional Development and People and Communities strand within Understanding the World.**

Stage 2 Following the Stage 1 consultation, we will review our PSHE curriculum and policy taking in to account any feedback or suggestions.

You will all receive a copy of our new draft curriculum and policy and it will be available on our website. It will then finally be ratified by Governors. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.

Kind regards,

Mrs K Highcock

Principal