

Dear Parents,

As you may be aware, as part of our pupils' personal and social development the Curriculum for Wales includes a 'Relationships and Sexuality Education' Element.

The Welsh Government believes that all young people should have the right to access information that keeps them safe from harm (Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - UNCRC). This includes learning about healthy relationships, keeping safe - including online - and being confident to raise issues with responsible adults.

Welsh Government Guidance – What will Primary age children be taught?

The aim is to gradually build learners' knowledge, skills and values as they develop, emphasising the social and emotional aspects of relationships. Schools are legally required to ensure that the learning is developmentally appropriate for every learner. That means they must not be exposed to learning they are not ready for. Education about relationships in early development is required to focus on building healthy relationships and self-esteem by encouraging learners to value themselves, recognise and communicate their feelings and form friendships.

Our Relationships and Sexuality Education programme will be delivered in an age-appropriate and sensitive manner by class teachers. We aim to provide a learning atmosphere where children feel safe and relaxed, and where they feel confident to engage in discussions around potentially sensitive subjects and themes.

The statutory guidance relating to relationships and sexuality has been recently finalised and can be found here:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/7a72a785-af96-4e50-aa30-8c2f68498be1/overview>

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/curriculum-for-wales-relationships-sexuality-education-code.pdf>

As the guidance and code are both statutory, you don't have the right to withdraw your child from these elements of the curriculum. However, we want to make sure you are aware of what we are teaching / discussing and what children might talk about with you at home.

This approach helps hugely with safeguarding children and means they receive an informed and unbiased understanding of a range of sensitive issues rather than picking up misguided ideas from friends and the internet.

To help us develop this approach, we use the 'JIGSAW' scheme designed specifically to address issues in a structured and age-appropriate way.

We are also fortunate to have strong links with The Elfed High School, where the year 11 pupils deliver 'Period Proud' workshops for our pupils.

Hopefully this will help to clarify how we aim to deliver this important aspect of the Curriculum for Wales. If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me.

Sian Ellis

Deputy Head