Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to let you know that, as of September 2020, Relationships Education will be compulsory in primary schools. We know that parents and carers are the prime educators for children on many of these matters and our role is to complement and reinforce this role. Relationships Education is introduced at a primary school age to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds.

Government guidance states ‘Today’s children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks….children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. Teaching about mental wellbeing is central to these subjects. ‘

Our existing curriculum promotes personal wellbeing and development through comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education; Relationships Education is part of this but until now it has not been statutory. PSHE gives children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills needed to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential. It is taught throughout the school and is monitored and reviewed regularly. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school’s ethos and values.

We are committed to working in partnership with parents and thank you in advance for your continued support. As part of the process of developing our new policy for PSHE and Relationships Education we would like to consult with parents. Our aim is to make sure that our policy meets the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community we serve.

Our Relationships Education curriculum will teach children about healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy. Relationships Education also creates an opportunity to enable pupils to be taught about positive emotional and mental wellbeing, including how friendships can support mental wellbeing.

Sex Education forms part of Relationships Education. As in our previous policy, we will continue to teach it in Year 6. We believe it is important to educate children in this aspect of their personal development in order to help them make informed decisions later on as they grow up. As Sex Education is non-statutory in Primary schools, parents have a right to request that their child be excused from sex education, following discussion with the Head teacher.

The closure of schools on March 20th 2020 has prohibited us from inviting parents to discuss this new policy at a meeting in school. As a result we would like to invite you to read our draft policy and curriculum guidance attached, and let us have your views, 26th June, in order that we can consider your views when finalising the new policy. If particular concerns were raised about specific aspects of the curriculum, these were recorded and discussed further with those parents separately.

Within this email, we have attached:

* our new **DRAFT PSHE and Relationships Education** policy which includes all areas we will be teaching including our whole school PSHE curriculum overview and progression guide
* Government statutory guidance information leaflet for parents
* Frequently asked questions
* a parent survey which asks you to express your thoughts before the policy is ratified by the governing body of our school. Please use the link within the email to access this. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PHPNNMT>

**Please read both the draft policy AND frequently asked questions document BEFORE completing the survey.**

Please can you ensure, should you wish to complete the parent survey, that you do so by 26th June 2020. The policy and guidance will be uploaded onto our school website once they have been agreed by Governors and staff before September 2020. In addition, lesson plans and resources for your child’s year group will be available to view at the Meet the Teacher Meetings in September 2020.

**Thank you for your support and help with this consultation.**

Yours sincerely

Alex Bord, PSHE Co-ordinator, Harrison Primary School and Sara Gmitrowicz, Executive Head teacher