



Children are at the centre of everything we do

Dear Parents/Carers,

13 November 2020

### **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) & Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Policy Reviews**

At Greenway we already have a significant programme of personal wellbeing and development in place for all pupils, believing that this is critical in supporting your children to be happy, healthy and safe. Our programme also supports them in being able to thrive in their relationships and to manage the opportunities and challenges of modern life. All personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) teaching is age-appropriate and takes place in a safe learning environment, underpinned by our school ethos and values.

With growing pressure on school timetables, the Department for Education recognised that their stated aim (that PSHE should have dedicated teaching time) was under threat in some schools and so they have taken the decision to make the teaching of 'Relationships Education' and 'Health Education' (covering aspects of both mental and physical health) mandatory for all. Primary schools are also strongly encouraged to continue to teach the remaining aspects of PSHE as well as to include age and stage appropriate Sex Education. At Greenway we have always had dedicated lessons allocated in our timetable for all of these aspects of PSHE.

Therefore, in practical terms, the new requirements represent minimal, if any, change for our school. However, we have taken this opportunity to conduct a review of what and how we teach Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and PSHE. While we have always been proud of our work in this area and while our Governors were very reassured by the review findings, I am excited to introduce you to a new extensive package of resources, called 'Jigsaw'. Since September, all class teachers have been using this resource from Nursery to Year 6. Attached with this letter are three information leaflets designed for parents and carers.

We do hope you find these useful:

- What is Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE?
- Relationships Education, Health Education and Sex Education in the Primary School
- What does Jigsaw teach about LGBTQ relationships?

With most elements of the PSHE curriculum becoming mandatory and with Jigsaw now in place, we also need to review our existing school RSE Policy. It is necessary for us to consult with you on this and we very much agree with that requirement. We acknowledge that mention of the words 'Relationships and Sex Education' can create unnecessary anxiety for parents and carers and want to reassure you about the safe learning environment in which it is taught at Greenway, about the breadth of learning

that the programme proposes, and about the appropriate way in which topics are tailored, for age and stage, throughout the school.

Teaching RSE and PSHE at school aims to complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child(ren) about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe and so we will be consulting with you, including through Parent Forum later this term. We will also be having discussions with some of our pupils, all staff and with a Working Party of our Governors before presenting the Governing Body with final policies for their approval. The Governors will only ratify the final draft policies once all consultations have taken place.

Ordinarily we would have invited you to an information evening to go through all of this. However, due to Covid-19, we will instead be emailing all parents and carers a copy of both the RSE and PSHE draft policy. These should be with you shortly.

For your information, we are currently teaching 'Celebrating Differences' using the Jigsaw resources, which fully compliments anti-bullying week next week. This is focusing on similarity and differences and teaches us about diversity, such as disability, racism, power, friendships and conflict; children learn to accept everyone's right to 'difference', and most year groups explore the concept of 'normality'. Anti-bullying, including cyber and homophobic bullying, is an important aspect of this puzzle/theme.

We are delighted to be using this new resource which your children seem to be embracing too. Please do take any appropriate opportunity to ask them about it and about the topics we are covering. We look forward to hearing your views on the policies and Jigsaw resources very soon.

Yours sincerely,

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Head

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