



1536



1701

# THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

*Love as Brethren*

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

| Tel: 01708 250500 | Email: [info@cooperscoborn.org.uk](mailto:info@cooperscoborn.org.uk) | Website: [www.cooperscoborn.org.uk](http://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk) |

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## Re: Introduction of PSHE: January 2022

Dear parents/carers

Over the past 18 months the school has been engaged in designing a comprehensive curriculum in order to implement the statutory requirement to teach Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Teaching RSE forms part of our broader commitment to the delivery of high quality PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education).

If you would like further information; the detailed statutory government document can be accessed [here](#).

In order to facilitate this change, we have made an amendment to the structure of our school day (Wednesday, Period 6) and school year (2-week October half term). This change will enable us to teach PSHE, including RSE, without reducing overall curriculum time for your son/daughter in their other subjects; indeed, the change results in an overall net increase in teaching time.

The purpose of this letter is to:

- Outline the structure of the school's new approach to PSHE, including RSE
- Share with you the school's PSHE and RSE policies and ask for your views on the proposed curriculum we intend to offer your son/daughter
- Inform you of your right to withdraw your son/daughter from the 'Sex Education' (only) aspect of the PSHE programme

### The structure of PSHE, including RSE

From January 2022, your son/daughter will be taught PSHE as an explicit subject for one hour every two weeks. This lesson will take place on a Wednesday Period 1, starting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January (Week 1). However, from April (after the Easter holiday) the subject will be taught on a weekly basis, again on Wednesday Period 1. Teaching will take place in tutor groups, led by staff who will specialise in the teaching of particular topics.

The school has worked through a detailed process in the development of its PSHE curriculum, utilising the expertise and advice of the PSHE Association. The PSHE Association organises learning opportunities for students under three core themes. These are: 'Health and Wellbeing', 'Relationships' and 'Living in the Wider World'. The school has chosen to use the expertise of the subject association in developing its curriculum rationale. The school has therefore separated these three core themes into six, to create specialist teaching teams of teachers trained to deliver specific content across key stages 3, 4 and 5.

To create these teams, we consulted our staff body and have paid careful attention to staff expertise and experience. We hope that taking this into consideration will help further staff professionally and create a positive culture within the subject to the benefit of your son/daughter.



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Our six specialist PSHE areas are:

Health and Wellbeing	Healthy lifestyles/decisions, managing risk and personal safety
Health and Wellbeing	Mental health and emotional wellbeing
Health and Wellbeing	Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
Relationships	Positive relationships, relationship values, forming and maintaining respectful relationships, bullying, abuse and discrimination and social influences
Relationships	RSE- consent in relationships, contraception and parenthood, elements of positive relationships, intimacy, elements of bullying, abuse and discrimination such as puberty, sexual health and fertility
Living in the Wider World	Financial decision-making, the world of work, careers planning, working with diverse people, The Equality Act, discrimination

Full details of our curriculum rationale can be found in Section 6 of the PSHE policy

### The School's PSHE and RSE Policies

The school is committed to high quality provision and with this in mind we have developed clear PSHE and RSE policies. Both policies are in draft format currently. The policies can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Please note:

- The school's RSE policy can be found in Appendix 2 of the PSHE policy
- An overview of the curriculum we intend to teach your son/daughter can be found in Section 5 (pages 8-11)
- A detailed breakdown of the curriculum content can be found in Appendix 1 of the PSHE policy (pages 18-24). In particular, please note that this has been broken down into specific year groups so that parents/carers can review the proposed content for each year.

We believe it is critical that parents/carers are actively involved in both the construction of these policies and the curriculum that we provide students. As such we are seeking parent/carer views of our proposed provision. If you would like to provide any feedback, please do so by accessing the feedback form by [clicking here](#) – please note the deadline for feedback is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm.

Over the coming weeks all staff at the school will also be consulted on the policies/curriculum. In addition, the students will be able to feed into the process as members of the school Student Congress will also be consulted on the proposed plans.

### The right to withdraw

It is important that we point out, as outlined within the statutory guidance, you have the right to request your child be withdrawn from all or part of sex education (only) lessons that are delivered as part of RSE.

Please note that you do not have a right to withdraw your child from:

- Relationships Education



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- Any sex education delivered as part of the science curriculum
- Health Education

If your son/daughter is in Year 10 or Year 11 please note that they will have the right to opt into sex education three terms before they turn 16 and the school will make arrangements for this to happen. In practice, this means that when your child turns 15 they have the right to be taught sex education if they want to - this overrides any prior parental consent.

Although you have the legal right to request to withdraw your child from any or all of sex education as part of Relationships Education, it is our aim to encourage parents to see the value of RSE learning and its contribution to keeping children safe, developing their emotional, social and physical wellbeing and for promoting equality and social justice. Should you decide that you do not wish for your child to take part in any of these lessons, we would ask that you first speak to the Headteacher to discuss your concerns. The Headteacher will discuss the request with you to fully understand and address any concerns/objections to the content of the curriculum. If following this you do decide to withdraw your child, you should inform the Headteacher in writing and the school will keep a record of this. Except in exceptional circumstances, we will respect your request to withdraw your child up to and until three terms before they turn 16. After that point, if your son/daughter wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements to provide them with sex education during one of those terms.

We will remind you annually that the request to withdraw is still in place and invite you to confirm whether you still want it.

For further information, The Department for Education has produced a brief parent guide about RSE education which can be accessed [here](#). Additionally, please find a [link](#) to a useful resource for parents entitled: "Relationships and Sex Education" - what does this mean for my teen and how can I help as a parent?

Over the coming weeks, all students in the school will be personally written to explaining the PSHE curriculum what this subject means for them. Additionally, all students, will, in early December, receive a bespoke assembly which will explain this new subject. We are sure you will agree that this important curriculum implementation will play a vital role in the education of your son/daughter over the coming years and will support you in your role as parents/carers and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Bell  
**Deputy Head**

Miss A Wood  
**Head of PSHE**