

Relationships and Sex_(n) Education (RSE)

Dear Parents and Carers

As you have probably heard in the press, on social media and from parents at other schools, the DESC has “un-paused” the teaching of RSE.

Ballaugh School is committed to ensuring our students receive key information which enables them to understand the emotional, social, and physical aspects of growing up. These themes are explored through Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) which forms part of the larger PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum and school culture. During their primary and secondary school journey, RSE aims to help keep children and young people safe by working with parents and carers to provide the information, skills and values needed to make informed choices, and to enjoy safe and healthy relationships throughout their lives. This includes learning about emotional wellbeing, mutual respect, treating others with kindness, as well as learning about the physical, social and emotional changes that happen to young people as they grow.

We are writing to advise you that, at Ballaugh School, the RSE curriculum will be recommencing later in this term and will continue to build throughout the following academic year with ongoing support from the Department of Education, Sport and Culture.

School staff are in the process of finalising what will be taught in each mixed age class, and when. The topics that will be covered in RSE lessons by the children in each class will be shared with you on our website as soon as they are finalised. This will include the *lesson objectives*, *success criteria (steps to success)* and *key vocabulary* that will be used in each lesson.

Along with several other schools that operate mixed age classes, we will be utilising an RSE and PSHE curriculum resource from Kapow. More information about this will also be available on our website.

We are also planning an after-school opportunity on **Thursday 30th May** to share information about the PSHE and RSE curriculum and to let you see more of the lesson content. In preparation for this we will send out a “survey” where you can ask any questions that you want. We will endeavour to answer all questions at the Q and A session and use them to create a factsheet.

A centralised [PSHE website](#) has also been created by the DESC. This is continuing to be developed in order to give you access to information on RSE and additional resources for guidance.

We understand that decisions regarding your child’s education are personal and often reflect individual family values and beliefs. While we value the opportunity to help children develop using the advisory curriculum, we respect the right of parents and carers to make decisions in the best interest of their child.

What to do next...

- Visit the School's website (<https://ballaugh.sch.im>) > About our School > PSHE and RSE
- Review the information, particularly the "What does our curriculum look like" section.
- Complete the Parents' Survey <https://forms.office.com/e/tmsYLT1Yy6>
- Come along to the Q and A session on Thursday 30th May, 3.30 pm and 5.30 pm.
These sessions are for parents only. (Should you not be able to make the session, please email any further points to the school office)

We are committed to working in partnership with you to ensure that your child receives a broad and balanced curriculum, and we appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Cushnie
Headteacher