

RIVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Be your best you

Dear Parents/Carers of children in Year 6,

Our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) Programme follows the Jigsaw scheme. This has recently been reviewed as some of the content has become statutory as a result of changes to the national curriculum.

You can find our updated policy for PSHE and a guide for parents on our school website -
<https://federationlyddenandriverdover.secure-primariesite.net/relationships-sex-and-health-education/>

The Summer Term unit is called 'Changing Me' which is a school wide topic, although of course the content is different for each year group. This is an important part of the curriculum as it also builds children's understanding of safeguarding.

In Year 6 lessons the children continue their learning about puberty and they learn about human reproduction. An outline of the content is as follows:

- Self-image – Our appearance and managing things that influence us - Peer pressure and expectations. What do we think we have to measure up to and why? More productive ways to consider ourselves rather than appearance. Helpful and unhelpful thoughts and feelings and behaviours – building and promoting self-esteem.
- Puberty – what do we know and understand about physical changes?
Male and female reproductive system and body parts.
Ovulation and menstruation - consider any misconceptions.
- Conception to birth – How a baby is conceived including opportunity to discuss learning in gender groups.
How a baby develops and how a baby is born.

We understand that this is a sensitive aspect of the curriculum and that as parents, you will want to be able to talk to your own children in an age-appropriate way and be ready to support and answer the questions that they may ask at home. We want to work in partnership with you and wish to inform you of your legal right to withdraw your children from some aspects of this work in Year 6.

Sex education refers to human reproduction, and therefore you have the right to request that your child is withdrawn from the PSHE lessons that explicitly teach this part of the Jigsaw Changing Me unit where the lessons will be taught relating to conception and child birth. We hope parents would talk to us before taking this decision and we are happy to share the content in more detail. Puberty however is taught as a statutory requirement of Health Education Curriculum.



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If you would like to withdraw your child from any of the sex education lessons (this does not include learning relating to puberty) please email/call the school office, and a member of the team will contact you to discuss this further if you would find this helpful.

We hope you will be in agreement with us that this learning is important for children, that it needs to be approached in an age-appropriately way and that the Jigsaw Programme gives us a secure framework in which to do this.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs V Alliston

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