**RSE Additional Information**

The Department for Education has announced changes to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). These changes came into effect in September 2020 and all schools are required to comply with the updated requirements, making Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education.

It has been 20 years since the last review of these curriculum areas, and in that, time the world has changed significantly. Children now face new challenges: they have to process lots of information from different sources (e.g. TV, the internet, social media), understand how society is changing and understand risks they may face – this all puts pressure on their physical and mental health.

We believe Relationships and Sex Education is important for our pupils and our school because:

• It is giving children the knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships.

• It is about giving children the opportunity to put knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts.

• It is the recognition that everyone faces difficult situations in their lives and how relationship and sex education can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

We view the partnership of home and school as vital in providing the context to both complement and reinforce what pupils learn at home about healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online, as well as how to be healthy.

Why has this change happened now?

The Equality Act came into force in 2010. The Equality Act 2010 states that it is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of:

• Age

• Disability

• Gender reassignment

• Marriage or civil partnership

• Pregnancy or maternity

• Race

• Religion or belief

• Sex/gender

• Sexual orientation (Government, 2010, p1)

The public sector Equality Duty came into force on 5th April 2011 and requires that public bodies (including schools):

• Have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination

• Advance equality of opportunity

