



# THE DOWNLEY SCHOOL

*"Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together"*

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6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year Six Pupils,

We hope that you and your children are all keeping well. We are still uncertain as to when schools will reopen but we will keep you fully updated as soon as we know when this will be.

As you are aware, in the final 6 weeks of Year Six, known as Summer 2, the children are taught, as part of their PSHE curriculum, a unit on Puberty and Sex Education. The staff at the school would normally invite you to an information evening which would give you the opportunity to view the materials we use to teach this area of the curriculum as well as provide some time for you to ask questions related to this. We will be unable to follow this format this year but if we return for the last six weeks of this academic year, we still intend to cover this content. To keep you fully informed and to enable you to ask any questions you may have, we have decided to send you the relevant materials and resources for you to read at home, without your child, and to learn how you can best support your child to discuss these lessons at home. You will then be able to make an informed decision and to give your consent for him/her to take part in Sex education. We would welcome any questions you may have related to these materials.

As a part of your child's education at The Downley School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential. We have enclosed our updated PSHE policy as well as our Relationships and Sex policies for you to read. There are also appendices attached for your perusal. The Downley School is a member of the PSHE Association. The materials we intend to use are from the PSHE Association and are government-approved.

At the start of Summer term 2, (if we have returned by then) starting from Monday 1st June, your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the Relationships and Sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. The sessions consist of four lessons. The first three are statutory and cover puberty (much of this is recapped from learning that has already taken part in their previous Year 5 class). It is important to note that Lesson 4 of this sequence of lessons is on Sex Education and you as parents and carers have the right to withdraw your child from this lesson. We have attached a 'Right to Withdraw' from Sex education form. Sex education is non-statutory at Year Six but is recommended by the DfE. If we do not return until September, we attach some links for you to follow if you wish to discuss this area of the curriculum with your child. Sex Education will continue in Year 7 at Secondary School.

You can read an overview of the PSHE curriculum taught at the Downley School - Appendix 1. This shows you the coverage from Year 1 to 6. The Y6 Medway resources show you the sequence of lessons in detail and the vocabulary used. We have also included the Year 5 Puberty lessons for you to read. All pupils will take part in the following:

Lesson 1: PUBERTY: RECAP AND REVIEW

Lesson 2: PUBERTY: CHANGE AND BECOMING INDEPENDENT

Lesson 3: POSITIVE AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Parents have the right to withdraw from the following:

Lesson 4: HOW A BABY IS MADE (This is the only lesson where parents have the right to withdraw their child from). Those parents who wish their child not to take part in this lesson, will need to return and sign the 'Right to Withdraw' form included in this pack - Appendix 5 of Sex education policy. All pupils in all four lessons will have opportunities to ask questions. Boys and girls will be taught together. They will also be provided with a question box for anonymous questions to be asked and answered.

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and our governing body. You will be able to see more information regarding our PSHE curriculum on our school website. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

We hope that by giving you the opportunity to be consulted on this important part of your child's education this will provide some of the answers to your questions. We would welcome any feedback and if you have any questions following this consultation phase, please address them to Mrs Bojarski by email to [office@thedownleyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@thedownleyschool.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Bojarski and Ms Taylor  
Y4/PSHE Lead Head

