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3.5.24

Dear Parents/Carers,

Information about the this term's Personal, Social, Health Education, which includes Relationships and Changing Me

At Portway Junior School we are using Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, as our scheme of work to teach PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education). The programme consists of 6 half-term units, each with 6 lessons. We call these Jigsaw 'Puzzles'. (Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me).

In the first half of the summer term we will be teaching the Relationships Topic. Relationships Education is statutory (DfE Guidance 2019) and parents are unable to withdraw their children from it.

We develop positive relationships throughout the school year and through each Jigsaw Puzzle, but there is a more specific focus on this in this Unit of Work, with children learning about different relationships we have with our friends, family and communities (including staying safe online), and how these relationships change as we grow.

In the second half of the summer term we will be teaching the 'Changing Me' Puzzle. This helps children learn to cope positively with all sorts of change. In Key Stage 2 they will learn about puberty in this Puzzle. In Key Stage 1 scientific terminology is introduced to pupils for body parts, including genitalia. This is partly for safeguarding reasons and partly to lay the foundations for learning about puberty later.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the statutory requirements placed on schools, and what we plan to teach and when, for this topic in PSHE this term. The letter aims to give you all the information you need but, should you wish to attend an information evening about this, then the date of this meeting is Thursday 23rd May at 6pm at the junior school.

The government statutory guidance gives parents the right to request to withdraw their child from Sex Education, and this letter explains more about what Sex Education is and how you can find out more about this if you wish to.

Health, Relationship and Sex Education

Health and Relationship Education is statutory in all primary schools, and it is recommended that all primary schools have a Sex Education programme that is tailored to the age of the pupils.

The Health and Relationship curriculum content is woven throughout the entire programme of Jigsaw, with a specific focus within the 'Healthy Me' and 'Relationships' Puzzles.

In the Early Years and Key Stage 1, the focus is on life cycles, valuing our own bodies and learning some vocabulary for the external body parts, that we might use if we needed to talk to an adult such as a nurse or a doctor.

[In Key Stage 2, there is a particular focus on the Health Education element of puberty \(including menstruation\) and the changes that happen inside and outside the body. This is taught in a way that helps pupils feel prepared for the main changes that happen before puberty starts, and to encourage them to talk to an adult at home or at school if they have any questions.](#)

At Portway, we define 'Sex Education' to mean the lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings' (Sex Education Forum, 1999). Please note that animal reproduction is a statutory element of the Year 5 Science curriculum and at Portway, we deliver this including human reproduction in Summer Term 2.

The right to withdraw

As parents you have the right to withdraw your child from the non-statutory elements of our teaching. These will be the lessons on human reproduction (please refer to the contents table below for the exact lessons). You are unable to withdraw your child from any lessons within Relationship or Health Education (this includes puberty and menstruation). If you do wish to withdraw your child from the human reproduction lessons, please contact Miss Windross, as Headteacher, so we can discuss the implications of withdrawing.

What will my child be taught about puberty and human reproduction?

We have reviewed the content in the Jigsaw Programme as part of our policy review and the content below reflects the decisions made as part of this process with the staff and governors.

The Jigsaw unit 'Changing Me' is taught in the summer term 2 and contains 6 pieces (lessons). Each year group will be taught appropriate to their age and developmental stage. This content will be taught by the class teachers. We will not teach beyond the remit of the year group. If questions are asked that the teacher feels are inappropriate or are beyond the content for that year group, the teacher may ask the child to ask their parent/carer, or the teacher may acknowledge the question and explain that we will learn about that aspect at another time.

The table below only covers the lessons (pieces) that relate to life cycles, the human body, puberty and human reproduction. The lessons (pieces) that parents are able to withdraw their children from are highlighted in red font.

School Year group	Piece (lesson) Number and Name	Learning Intentions relating to Puberty and Human Reproduction
Ages 7-8 Year 3	Piece 1 How Babies Grow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand that in animals and humans lots of changes happen from birth to fully grown, and that usually it is the female who has the baby express how they feel when they see babies or baby animals
	Piece 2 Babies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand how babies grow and develop in the mother's uterus and understand what a baby needs to live and grow (New vocab – uterus /womb) express how they might feel if they had a new baby in their family
	Piece 3 Outside Body Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand that boys' and girls' bodies need to change so that when they grow up their bodies can make babies identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the outside during this growing up process (introduce term puberty)
	Piece 4 Inside Body Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the inside during the growing up process and why these changes are necessary so that their bodies can make babies when they grow up (introduce vocab sperm, ovaries, egg, Ovum/ Ova, womb/uterus, vagina and period) recognise how they feel about these changes happening to them and how to cope with these feelings <p>Note – this lesson briefly introduces the term 'period' and explains what a period is in simple terms. This lesson does not attempt any explanation of how the sperm and egg come together. If a child asks the question we will explain that the male and female decide when this happens and we will learn more about it at another time.</p>
Ages 8-9 Year 4	Piece 1 Unique Me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand that some of my personal characteristics have come from my birth parents and that this happens because I am made from the joining of their egg and sperm.
	Piece 2 Having A Baby Parents have the right to withdraw children from this session as it is classed as human reproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> correctly label the internal and external parts of male and female bodies that are necessary for making a baby and in simple terms how this happens understand that having a baby is a personal choice and express how they feel about having children when they are adults Note: This is a simple introduction to sexual intercourse with the teacher using a script which includes 'an especially close and loving embrace which allows the sperm to be released through the penis into the vagina.'

	Piece 3 Girls and Puberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe how a girl's body changes in order for her to be able to have babies when she is an adult, and that menstruation (having periods) is a natural part of this know that they have strategies to help me cope with the physical and emotional changes they will experience during puberty Note – teachers will also recap the puberty learning for both girls and boys from year 3 and revisit some of the content if required.
Age 9-10 Year 5	Piece 2 Puberty for Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain how girls' bodies change during puberty and understand the importance of looking after themselves physically and emotionally understand that puberty is a natural process that happens to everybody and that it will be OK for them
	Piece 3 Puberty for Boys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can describe how boys' and girls' bodies change during puberty I can express how I feel about the changes that will happen to me during puberty
	Piece 4 Conception Parents have the right to withdraw children from this session as it is classed as human reproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand that sexual intercourse can lead to conception and that is how babies are usually made I also understand that sometimes people need IVF to help them have a baby I appreciate how amazing it is that human bodies can reproduce in these ways
Age 10-11 Year 6	Piece 2 Puberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can explain how girls' and boys' bodies change during puberty and understand the importance of looking after yourself physically and emotionally I can express how I feel about the changes that will happen to me during puberty
	Piece 3 Babies – Conception to Birth Parents have the right to withdraw children from this session as it is classed as human reproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe how a baby develops from conception through the nine months of pregnancy, and how it is born recognise how they feel when they reflect on the development and birth of a baby
	Piece 4 Attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand how being physically attracted to someone changes the nature of the relationship express how they feel about the growing independence of becoming a teenager and their confidence that they can cope with this

We are eager to work in partnership with parents

Please be aware that your child may ask you questions on what they have learnt. There is a leaflet attached to this email which gives tips on how to talk to your child about puberty and human reproduction. There is also the Usborne series of growing up books (<https://usborne.com/gb/books/series/growing-up>) that you might find useful.

We hope that the information we have provided is useful in understanding what your child will be learning this term.

Please refer to our PSHE policy- this can be found on our website - for further information and, if you have any further questions, please contact your child's teacher or me via the office.

Kind regards,

Mr Ireland
PSHE / SRE Lead