

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know that our Academy Council have now ratified the Sex and Relationships policy and that this is now in place.

Thank you to those parents who engaged with the SRE consultation process either by attending workshops, writing to put forward their views and opinions or simply taking the time to talk to a member of staff about this important part of their child's education. If you have been happy for us to get on with it without your input, then thank you for your trust. Feedback has been overwhelmingly supportive of the consultation process and of the nature and content of the lessons.

All letters put forward as part of the consultation process were put to the Council and points raised were discussed. It was agreed by the Council that while all points were taken into account, the process would not include making individual replies to letters or emails.

One amendment has been made to the policy after discussion from points raised by several parents. This was a concern that the list of 'protected characteristics' did not include *sexual orientation*. It was agreed that the policy must reflect all legal protected characteristics as set out in law (Equality Act 2010) and in our own Equality Policy.

**The amendment does not change any content taught or materials used as presented in the workshops.**

As I have explained in a previous letter, the government statutory guidance on SRE will change for September 2020 and we will need to begin to consult on that soon.

A reminder of the changes:

Current - Sex and Relationships Education is not compulsory - parents can withdraw their children from SRE lessons, though not from the elements of sex education taught as part of the primary science national curriculum.

From September 2020 - Under SRE, Relationships and Health education will become compulsory meaning that parents will not be able to withdraw their children from these lessons. (We will continue to teach the aspects of sex education which are part of the primary science national curriculum).

I will be in touch regarding the new statutory guidance before the end of the year. As I have said before, we will not make changes until parents are fully aware of proposals and consultation has taken place.

Yours faithfully,