

Relationships & Health Education (RHE)

Frequently Asked Questions

From September 2020 there is a new framework for RHE as taught through our PSHE curriculum. You may have heard about some of the new changes and have some questions regarding this. Therefore, we have compiled a Q&A sheet which may help. If you have any further questions, please contact the school who will be happy to answer any further questions.

[What legal rights do parents have regarding Relationships and Sex Education and Relationships and Health Education? Do you have to teach my child about sex education or do I have a choice?](#)

As of September 2020, Relationships and Health Education is statutory which means that all schools must teach it. At Northfield Manor we do not teach sex education other than in the science curriculum. In science, children will learn about life cycles and the processes from conception, through birth and death.

[Can I see the content of the curriculum and resources being used?](#)

An overview of the PSHE lessons will be sent out to parents via dojo at the beginning of each half term. This will show the elements of the lessons being taught for that particular theme. A list of books used in PSHE is also available to parents.

Parents will always be told when the children will be learning about puberty - this takes place in Year 5 and Year 6. This covers:

- Identifying changes in the body that happens in puberty (including naming intimate body parts, menstruation and personal hygiene).
- Recognising emotions and feelings may also change in relation to the changing body.

Although parents are not able to withdraw their children from these lessons, we recognise that many parents will want to have these conversations with their child too and this is encouraged.

Is puberty taught to boys and girls separately?

Yes, boys and girls are taught about puberty separately and will be taught by a teacher of the same sex. This enables our pupils to feel more comfortable within their peer group and they may feel more confident to ask questions. We also use an 'Ask-it Basket' if pupils wish to write a question for a teacher to respond to rather than asking the question in front of the class.

What exactly is my child being taught in 'Relationships' Education?

The content and context of relationships education is based around the concept of 'my family' and 'my friends'. Our curriculum teaches children about safe, positive and happy relationships with families and friends both in the real world and online. This also includes mental health and bullying.

When will my child see images of same sex relationships in RHE?

At NMPA we don't teach explicitly about same sex relationships; however, in our 'Relationships' strand the learning centres around different types of families. There are some picture books which we will share with the children. These depict diversity in their illustrations including people of different faiths, disabilities and same sex couples. Our rationale is purely to ensure that all of our families feel included and valued and the books we use merely celebrate diversity in all its forms.

How will the school answer any questions raised by children regarding same sex relationships?

If a question did arise, we would simply explain that it's another type of family, it may not be the same as their family but lots of families are different. If that was the family set-up of one of our pupils, we would encourage them to talk about their family experiences, as we would with any child. It is important for every child to feel valued and included at NMPA. If a pupil was asking lots of questions, we may feel it necessary to contact their parent to suggest they may like to discuss this further with their own child.

What are the children being taught in terms of transgender and are the children told that people can change sex?

Currently, our curriculum does not include any lessons regarding transgender. If any questions were to be raised by children, they would be dealt with in an individual age appropriate manner and not as part of a whole class session.

What support can the school offer in terms of speaking to my child about relationships and health issues?

We are happy to support any parent with any aspect of the curriculum including relationships and health education. Please talk to a member of staff who will be happy to help.

At NMPA we strongly believe that tolerance and acceptance are vital skills for the children to learn and develop in order to become good citizens in our ever-changing society.

Thank you