SUTTON ST JAMES C.P. SCHOOL

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29th September 2026

Dear Parents,

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and the right to withdraw

PSHE education is a subject through which pupils develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. It helps children and young people to stay healthy and safe, while preparing them to make the most of life and work. PSHE education also helps pupils to achieve their academic potential.

Most PSHE education became statutory (compulsory) for all schools from September 2020 under the Children and Social Work Act 2017. This includes Relationship and Health Education at KS1 and 2.

Our PSHE curriculum is based on the PSHE Association Programme of Study for PSHE education as advised by the Government. This provides a comprehensive programme that integrates, but is not limited to, this statutory content. Our PSHE curriculum also covers economic wellbeing, careers and enterprise education, as well as education for personal safety, including assessing and managing risks which we feel is vitally important for our pupils' personal development and economic wellbeing. Our curriculum is also enriched with workshops delivered by external professionals to help children to consolidate learning in the curriculum.

During KS1 and 2, our PSHE curriculum offers both explicit and implicit learning opportunities and experiences which reflect pupils' increasing independence and physical and social awareness. It builds on the skills that our pupils started to acquire in EYFS (Wrens class) to develop effective relationships, assume greater personal responsibility and manage personal safety, including online. Our PSHE curriculum helps pupils to manage the physical and emotional changes at puberty, introduces them to the wider world and encourages them to make an active contribution to their communities.

Government guidance states "It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The Department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born."

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw pupils from sex education (other than as part of the science curriculum), but not Relationships or Health Education.

Whilst parents have the option to withdraw their child from this education there are many benefits of children receiving this important education. Withdrawing a child could have

detrimental social and emotional effects including the feeling of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher. Some of these detrimental effects may be mitigated if you propose to deliver sex education to your child at home instead.

To help you make the decision of whether you would like to withdraw your child from the non-statutory elements of our PSHE curriculum, including sex education, we would like to share with you the learning that your child will take part in through PSHE lesson over the coming year, highlighting the areas which are statutory and those which are not. If there are any areas that you do not wish your child to take part in, please indicate this on the second chart attached and return it to school. Please ensure that you fill in your child's name, class and sign the form.

Kind regards

C. Willows

Miss Claire Willows
Headteacher