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To all Parents/Carers,

From September 2020, The Department for Education (DfE) is introducing compulsory Relationships Education and Health Education for all primary pupils. Although this sounds like something new being added to the curriculum, it will actually be a continuation, with a few new additions, of what we already do in school. That said, we would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a few facts about what to expect. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions:

Q: Will Markeaton have to engage with Parents/Carers before September?

A: Yes. We will be required to consult with Parents/Carers, but only when developing and reviewing our policy for Relationships Education – not Health Education. This policy will inform our decision on when and how certain content is covered.

Q: Will my child be taught sex education at primary?

A: The DfE are not introducing **compulsory** sex education at primary school – however, it is strongly recommended that we do have an appropriate sex education scheme of work in place. At the moment we use the Derby City agreed syllabus.

Q: Can I withdraw my child from sex education lessons?

A: Although the DfE advises against this, Parents/Carers do have the right to withdraw their child from any sex education lessons.

Q: Can I withdraw my child from Relationships Education or Health Education?

No. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education. Both of these will put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will start with family and friends, how to treat each other with kindness and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships.

Q: Does the new Relationships Education take account of my faith?

A: The *DfE states that Relationships Education has been designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain – this means taking into account the religious background of pupils when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled.

**In developing these subjects, the DfE have worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England.*

Q: Will my child be taught about LGBT+ relationships?

A: Yes. Markeaton believes that all pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. Relationships Education is designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. We also believe that children should receive teaching on LGBT content during their school years. Teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist is very important.

**The DfE states that Primary schools are strongly encouraged and enabled to cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families.*

Q: Where can I find out more information about what will be taught in my child's school?

A: Please find attached a useful guide for all Parents/Carers.

What happens next?

Over the coming months we will be carrying out a range of consultations with Children, Parents/Carers and Staff in order to inform our revised RSE Policy for September 2020 – this is likely to start with an online survey before Easter. At this stage, we just wanted you to know, in good time, the proposed course of action. If you have any questions in the meantime, please speak to me on the gate or arrange an appointment.

Kind regards,

Mr I. Johnson