

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here is a summary of what was shared and spoken about at the parent RSE session on Tuesday 8th May. Alice Cruttwell, author of the Shropshire Respect Yourself scheme, came to give an overview of the resource and answer any questions.

Alice explained that teaching about relationships and sex education is currently non-statutory, however elements of the programme are, as they form part of the biology curriculum in Science. It is compulsory for the school to have an RSE policy. This is available for you to view on the school website. The law, however, is changing and in September 2019 all schools will have to teach relationship education in some way.

It was explained that the scheme we will be adopting at Lawley Primary School is a whole school approach – this means RSE lessons will be taught from Year 1 up to Year 6 at an age appropriate level. There will be a sequence of at least 5 lessons, delivered by the class teacher, that allow children to work in mixed or single-gendered groups. There will be certain strategies and techniques used by the teacher to approach and deal with sensitive issues. This includes assessing children's knowledge prior to the lesson, creating a safe and comfortable learning environment, having a question box for questions that are unable to be answered during the lesson and using characters to explore delicate subjects.

It was also explained that when referring to the body parts during these sessions that the correct terminology will be used by the class teacher. This isn't to say that the names you use at home are to stop being used, but to expect children to come home and know the biological name for their body parts.

It is essential that we teach about this important subject throughout your child's school life, mainly for a safe-guarding point of view. The learning and discussion that will take place in these lessons will not only give your child the facts rather than hearsay off the playground, but also allow them to ask questions that may have been troubling them, discover more about themselves and help them keep safe in school and in the outside world by understanding what is appropriate and what isn't.

As a parent, you are able to withdraw your child from all or parts of the RSE programme that will be taught after half term. However, I would ask that you take a look at the resources and discuss with the class teacher or Mrs McQuiggin first. The resources will shortly be available on the school website for you to view at home, or please make an appointment with the class teacher to come in and see the resources that will be used.

Thank you for your support with this new programme of study.