



Chenies School
Chenies
Hertfordshire
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21st May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As you may be aware, up until now, the Department for Education (DfE) have stated their expectation that all schools *should* teach PSHE education, but the subject is not mandatory. As a result, in some schools, the time allocated to teaching PSHE has been under threat. The DfE has recognised this issue, and in response to widespread support for higher status, announced the intention to make key aspects of PSHE education mandatory in all schools from September 2020.

Therefore, 'Relationships Education' and 'Health Education' (covering aspects of both mental and physical health) will be mandatory at Chenies School. Though not yet mandatory, schools are also encouraged to continue to teach the remaining aspects of PSHE education to complement what is covered in other areas of the curriculum, which we will also be doing.

At Chenies school, we are extremely excited about the new curriculum for PSHE and the important learning that will be taking place. Schools, in partnership with parents, have a vital role in preparing children and young people to negotiate the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly complex world.

Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is the school subject that deals with real life issues affecting our children, families and communities. It is concerned with the social, health and economic realities of their lives, experiences and attitudes. It supports pupils to be healthy (mentally and physically); safe (online and offline) and equipped to thrive in their relationships and careers. PSHE education helps all children and young people to achieve their fullest potential.

Ordinarily, we would like to have held an information evening with you to be able to go through these new changes. In lieu of this, due to Covid-19, we have Included a PowerPoint (saved as a PDF) on the school website, which should help to explain some of the changes. We have also attached our draft policies, on which we would welcome your feedback, questions and suggestions. It is part of our legal obligation to provide you with the opportunity to contribute to these policies and so we welcome your ideas; all feedback is valuable to us as you all approach parenting from different walks of life and have a wide range of ideas and opinions.

Once we start the new academic year in September we will hold a full information session where you will be very welcome to ask further questions about the curriculum, look at resources and see in more detail what we are proposing to teach.

However, if you have queries that relate more specifically to the new policies, we would also like to invite you to indicate whether you would like to attend a 'policy question and answer' session after the half term break in June. Once you have read the policies and appendices through, please let us know if you would like to be a part of this Policy Q&A session by Monday 1st June via e-mail to the school office (subject line 'FAO PSHE Lead – Zoom Meeting').

This link provides further information for parents/carers -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

We hope that you are doing well in these unknown times and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

With best wishes,

Mrs Rachel Wilson (PSHE Lead) and Mrs Suzanne Powell