



# Highfields Academy

*Together we inspire, always aiming higher*

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you're all ok and have had a good week. Today's letter includes important information on two areas in particular: Covid-19 risk assessment and our curriculum for Relationships and Sex Education.

## Covid-19

As you will be aware, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May hopefully marks the next point in the Government's roadmap out of lockdown. A list of the general changes that will come into force is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

Yesterday I attended a meeting with Cheshire East LA where the focus was on how these changes impact on schools. The key message that came through the meeting was to 'proceed with caution' and that schools need to be particularly careful in making any changes to current risk assessments regarding indoor activities. It was also stressed that schools need to be ready to respond quickly should local data indicate concern.

We have decided that as we only have 9 school days before the half term break that our current risk assessment will remain in place until the holiday. I will be meeting with a group of governors over the next week to discuss changes that can be implemented once we return after the break. This means that for the time being the one way system will remain in place and we will still strongly urge parents to wear face coverings while they are on the school premises. I am hopeful that once we return we may be able to relax some of our safety measures. I will ensure that before we finish you are all informed of what measures will remain and what will be relaxed when we return on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

I do understand that some of the measures that we have introduced over the last year have caused inconvenience for many of you and I sincerely thank you for the support you have given us over this time. Hopefully the removal of some of these measures is not far away.



## Relationships and Sex Education:

Last year the Government announced their new expectations for Primary Schools in delivering Relationships and Sex Education. This curriculum was due to be introduced last September but due to the pandemic it has been delayed. However, it must be implemented by September 2021. It is a statutory duty on schools to consult with parents about what makes up this curriculum and how it is delivered. You may recall a letter from me last March to inform you about our consultation process.

Our consultation process is underway and staff and governors have been involved in this to date. We are now ready to roll this out to parents.

There is not a huge amount that has changed from what we have already been doing for several years. We have always used the Christopher Winter Programme to support our delivery of Sex Education and we will continue to use this. The main change will be that we are planning on integrating the 'No Outsiders in our School' programme into our curriculum. This has been implemented in many schools already and I feel that it will significantly improve our delivery of the relationships curriculum.

The consultation with parents will be in two stages. Stage one is to provide links to our website which contains policies, documentation, lesson plans and links to resources that we propose to use in the delivery of the curriculum. Stage 2 will be to arrange a virtual meeting after half term so that parents can ask questions and make comments.

Our Relationships and Sex Education Policy can be found at:  
<http://www.highfieldsacademytrust.co.uk/page/relationships-and-sex-education/3772>

As well as the policy you will find in here links to videos all of the books that we propose to use to deliver the No Outsiders part of the curriculum.

On the website you will also find details of the Sex Education Programme, including an overview of what will be covered in each year and also lesson plans for each part of that. These can be found at:  
<http://www.highfieldsacademytrust.co.uk/page/relationships-and-sex-education/3772>

I ask you all to have a look through these documents and if you have any comments/questions prior to the virtual meeting (end of June, date to be confirmed) please send them to me at [head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@highfieldsnantwich.cheshire.sch.uk). Please make the subject of your email '**RSE CONSULTATION**'

Many thanks again for your support, have a lovely weekend.

Simon Dyson  
Principal