Dear Parents and Carers,

**Relationships Education, Health Education and Sex Education at Valley Gardens Middle School -**

**New Statutory Curriculum (September 2020)**

You may be aware that a new statutory framework for Relationship and Health Education (Primary) and Relationship, Health and Sex Education (Secondary) comes into play in schools this September. This academic year’s PSHE curriculum, which you can find on the school website, is already very close to the requirements of the statutory curriculum and, as a result, our new PSHE curriculum will not differ too far from this in content. At Valley Gardens, our PSHE curriculum for September 2020 goes beyond the statutory requirements to also cover areas such as finance, jobs and careers, and enterprise. We have also responded to our pupil consultation to develop a bespoke curriculum for Valley Gardens pupils specifically.

**Parent Consultation**

I had planned to consult with parents about the new curriculum, and what it means for our children, this term. However, this has not been possible in the way that I had envisaged. Detailed curriculum information, and an opportunity for parental consultation, will come as soon as we are able to do this safely. In the meantime, I plan to send out a more informal consultation, in the format of a Google Forms document, in the coming weeks and look forward to your responses.

**Sex Education at Valley Gardens for 2019-2020**

As we usually teach aspects of Relationship and Sex Education elements of our PSHE curriculum in the summer term, pupils have missed out on learning in this important unit of work, particularly around the topic of ‘Growing and Changing. We felt that as it might not be appropriate for home learning, we would teach this topic early in September 2020 to ensure that pupils do not miss out on this vital information. However, should you wish to access some resources in the interim as a starting point for conversations at home around ‘Growing and Changing’, we have added three Powerpoint presentations to our website for your information. They can be found here (at the bottom of the page): <https://www.valleygardensmiddle.org/curriculum-areas/pshe/>

Additionally, the ‘Betty Bus’ website, which we use in school, has an excellent parents’ hub which you might also find useful:

<https://wearebetty.com/pages/parent-hub-landing-page>

Finally, should you wish to purchase some reading materials around this subject, I can recommend the ‘What is happening to me?’ range by Usborne publishing. These books are aimed at children from Year 4 onwards and while Usborne produce individual male and female versions of this book, you might find it useful to know that all pupils cover both male and female changes in our current Key Stage 2 curriculum.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs D Charlton

PSHE Lead