Notes from the RSHE focus group on Thursday 15th July 2021

**First Question:** Do we want to teach the children the names of the body parts in Year 2?

* The majority of the parents that attended felt that it is better to use the correct scientific language at Year 2.
* They asked – when introducing the scientific language will we introduce the slang words at the same time? A parent said that she had experience of her child learning slang words in the playground/outside school. She asked for the children to learn some of the common slag words too as this might help with any misconceptions.

**Decision:** To teach the names of the body parts in Year 2.

**Second Question:** Do we teach Sex Education in Year 4 or Year 5?

* The parents wanted to understand why the school would choose Year 5 rather than Year 4 as other schools are now teaching it in Year 4. The parents would be happy for the school to introduce or drip feed these topics as the parents trust the teacher’s judgement.
* Mr Wright and Mrs Barry explained that this subject has historically always been taught much later. The parents felt that teaching this in Year 5 could cause difficulties for parents when pupils start puberty before it is introduced in school. The parents felt that it was better for the children to learn about this earlier. This might help to stop the children from learning the wrong information outside of school from their peers.
* One parent did disagree with this though. She felt that the children should not learn about this in Year 4. She felt that if a parent wants their child to learn about this earlier then the they should talk to them about it at home.
* Sara Ward suggested finding out what other LBH schools are doing in implementing this.
* One parent asked about what happens when a child is playing and they start menstruating and they are then teased as a result. How do we deal with this? Mr Wright explained that this would be more about behaviour management/ethos of the school than curriculum and that the school would discuss and share information about puberty or anything else as necessary to help children understand why their actions are hurtful and to bring about resolution.
* Sara Ward suggested drip feeding elements into the curriculum.
* Another parent mentioned they were afraid to talk to their child about puberty as they might not use the correct language. She also mentioned that not all children feel safe or comfortable talking to their parents about this subject. The school provides a safe place to talk about it.
* Another parent who attended the focus group had a daughter in Year 6 -3 or 4 years ago. Her child was very excited to start sex education. She mentioned that most information tended to be passed down by year 6 pupils beforehand. She felt like it would be a good idea to be taught this earlier and that they should be taught it as early as possible.
* It was also discussed that the school would get some age appropriate books for the reading corners that cover these topics.
* Parents spoke about their struggles in answering questions, such as “where do babies come from?”
* We also discussed putting a list of books on the website to help parents at home talk to their children about these topics if they wish to.

**Decision:** All the parents liked the idea of drip-feeding information from Year 4. The majority of the parents who attended the meeting want sex education to be taught in Year 4. Another parent thought that it is best taught in Year 5.

**Third Question:** Do we want to teach FGM to the children as the curriculum from the PSHE Association proposing teaching it in Year 5.

* All the parents agreed that we do not need to teach FGM to the children. Mrs Barry and Mr Wright explained that all the staff and teachers have had training on this topic and know what to look out for.

**Decision:** We will not teach FGM and will remove it from the curriculum.