**Commonly asked Questions – RSE Policy in primary schools.**

Wycliffe Policy is not to teach Sex Education via PHSCE – this happens in secondary schools.

Wycliffe **will** teach all the statutory science curriculum as defined in the Science Progammes of Study – parents **cannot** withdraw their children from this.

Please find below some commonly asked questions and responses. This is provided by a very useful website: BigTalk Education <https://www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk/>

Sex Education at four, surely not?

* Relationship & Sex Education is an umbrella term used to describe a whole host of topics not just reproduction; some things are vital for even a four-year-old to be aware of, for example good and bad touches.
* Age appropriateness is the key, using the words, resources and approach that is most effective when addressing the issues relevant to their age as they grow and mature.

Relationship and sex education is the job of the parents, why is this happening in schools?

* Not all parents/carers feel confident or knowledgeable; they are scared they may say too much or too little plus virtually all parents think it is will be covered at school at some point.
* Not all teachers feel adequately trained and confident to deliver a rapidly changing subject that may compromise their knowledge and question their values so statutory guidance has been given.

Won’t relationship and sex education take away the children’s innocence?

* Nothing takes away innocence quicker then sexual abuse.
* Knowledge about their bodies won’t stop them wanting to fly kites, go sledging or make sand castles.
* When body science is discussed they just add it to their knowledge bank, it is often us as adults that have the concerns.
* The world is changing and protecting our children with age appropriate information about risk is vital.

Why do children need to know the correct words for genitals?

* It is really important that children know the correct scientific names for their genitals.
* In the event of them ever being inappropriately touched they have the vocabulary to give exact information.
* For example, “they touched my Minnie/tuppence/flower” is very vague as opposed to “they touched my vagina”.
* Child abusers prefer uneducated children – those who don’t have the words and knowledge of what’s right and wrong.
* [Research](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-32321204) shows that an educated child is three times more likely to speak out if they are subjected to abuse.

Do children really need sex education? I didn’t have sex education when I was at school.

* When today’s adults were at school the world was a very different place, no mobile phones with cameras, no sexting, no easy available access to pornography or strangers via the Internet.
* It is imperative we educate children to be aware of the risks, so they know to come to trusted adults with their questions about their bodies, relationships and sex etc. rather than the internet.

Our family have a strong faith and we don't want our children to know these things.

We give children and young people, age appropriate factual information, delivered in a calm and gentle way. Unfortunately, abusers do discriminate by religion or family beliefs, so it is important that all children are given this type of education. With the ease of access to unreliable sources of information on every computer and smart phone, it is important that children know that they can speak to their trusted adults about all topics. Because if we do not educate them, they will look for the information in places (and from people) that are not reliable sources and that could put them at risk.