

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write some more about the **planned changes to Relationship Education** that I wrote about last week.

I'd like to write from personal experience; humour my reminiscing about my childhood! As children, my brother and I regularly used to accompany my parents to visit their good friend Richard, who lived with another man called Ian. Aged 8 or so this did not seem particularly strange to me. My parents did not comment on the nature of their relationship other than that they lived together – just like Mummy and Daddy did. This therefore seemed perfectly 'normal' to me just like any of the other family arrangements I came to know as a child – couples, some married some not; single parents; grandparents etc. My upbringing allowed me to understand that families came in all sorts of shapes and sizes – there was not a one size fits all model. This helped me understand that while I lived with my brother, mum and dad – other children and family friends might live together in different ways. My parents never passed comment on what was 'better' or 'worse', but we just knew and understood relationships could look different in different households.



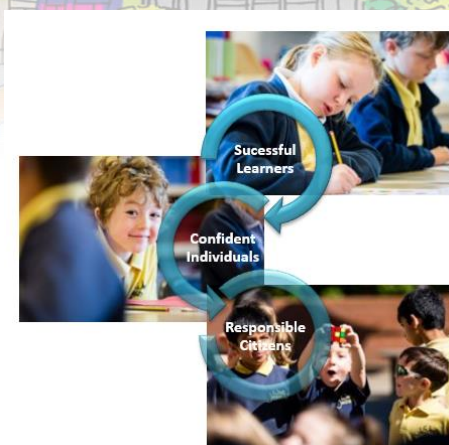
I believe we are trying to do the very same thing at West Jesmond in terms of our approach to relationships education. We want children to understand that relationships can be different – we are not looking to validate one type of relationship or family arrangement over and above another. Working with the children in this way, will allow them to understand the landscape of different relationships they are likely to encounter, in their own lives, moving forward. It is as simple as that really and reflects the existing diversity within our school community.

As I said last week, sex education begins in secondary school; our focus is solely relationships and the qualities that make them safe and secure. The government's position and reasons for the proposed changes were set out clearly during last night's BBC Question time by the Secretary of State for Education, Damien Hinds. It's a much easier listen then reading through all the online documentation!

We have also received confirmation this week from the Department of Education that we will become a pilot school or early adopter of the proposed changes described above. Working with the Department in this way will help us gain early access to training materials for teachers and also help shape the eventual national roll out. As soon as I am clear about timelines from the DfE, I will write again to let you know more.

Also attached within the school mail this week is our **new curriculum overview and policy**.

Both documents are intended to provide you with a flavour of the drivers behind our curriculum; how we organise and plan the curriculum and finally what we intend our curriculum to provide for your children in terms of outcomes. Any feedback would be most welcome 😊



On Wednesday it was a pleasure to welcome mechanics from the Cycle Hub back into school as part of our **Bike it Breakfast**. Many thanks to everyone who came along with their bikes, scooters etc. and hopefully your bikes etc. are now in tip top condition; renewed and repaired for the summer months ahead!



Year 2 were out and about this week at the Discovery Museum

finding out about North Eastern inventors and inventions and trying their hands at bridge designing. They now need to decide who they think is the most Significant inventor to end their topic.

Young Achievers	
Rahaf Y3F	Excellent Dippy Homework
Mohammed R1	Excellent work in English
Yasmin R1	Puffin badge in Swimming
Eva Y1W	Level 1 and 2 Lexia Certificates
Una Y1O	Level 1 Lexia Certificate
Heidi Y1O	Level 1 Lexia Certificate
Grant Y1O	Level 1 Lexia Certificate
Amira R3	Level 6 Gymnastics
Cecile R2	Creative writing award from Jesmond Library
Emily Y1O	Level 8 Gymnastics
Emilia Y3L	Orange and White Belt in Karate
Daniel Y4S	Skiing Certificate
Ali R1	Fantastic writing
Mohammed R1	Fantastic writing
Henry Y2S	Star team player in Rugby
Keira Y6S	2 nd in Cheerleading Competition: ICE
Mary Y6M	Hockey County Championships
Monica Y6S	Hockey County Championships
Dan Y6S	Hockey County Championships
Inigo Y6S	Hockey County Championships and 250 Dojo Points
Megan Y6S	Hockey County Championships
Arya Y6M	Hockey County Championships
Albie Y6W	Hockey County Championships
Duncan Y6W	Hockey County Championships
Basma Y6W	Hockey County Championships
Robert Y6W	Hockey County Championships

With best wishes for the week ahead.

Dominic

Dominic Martin Head of School