**Relationship Education: Teaching about LGBTQ+ Relationships**

**Teaching all children to be accepting of each other gives a sense of belonging to any child who feels a little bit different and helps them to know it’s okay to be themselves.**

**What will children in our school be learning about LGBTQ+?**

Lots of primary schools are already doing great work to teach their children about different families, and to prevent and tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

The difference is that now, every school will need to teach children about relationships and families. The guidance for primary schools says that this can include LGBTQ+ families. In practice, that means teaching children that it’s okay to have two mums, two dads or another family structure, such as being cared for by grandparents, single parents, or adoptive/foster parents.

We believe that children deserve to learn about a world which reflects the one in which they are growing up. Many children will have LGBTQ+ parents, friends or family members, and this new guidance will help them to grow up knowing that their families are accepted as much as everyone else’s.

**What will be taught to children in Years R, 1 and 2 (4-7 years old)?**

LGBTQ+ is not mentioned specifically in lessons for children aged 4-7 years. However, in lessons that explore differences in families, pictorial resources which are used as a discussion focus. Questions such as: ‘Which photos show a family?’, ‘What is important about a family?’ and ‘What does your family mean to you?’ help children understand about their own and other’s families and how a family is founded in love and respect. Should children raise the question about pictures that show a same-gender couple, teachers will explain to children in the following way: ‘Some children have two mummies or two daddies.’ This acknowledges and includes any children who have LGBTQ+ people as part of their family. Teachers are not expected to go beyond this response, or give more detail, as that would not be age-appropriate.

**What is taught about LGBTQ+ for the children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (7-11 years old)?**

There will be some lessons about bullying which provide opportunities for teachers to discuss and correct homophobic language the children may be using, such as the inappropriate use of the words ‘gay’ and ‘lesbian’, or the use of slang words that are LGBTQ+-phobic. In the same lessons they will also be exploring racist and sexist language or insulting language that is used about a person’s physical appearance, their abilities, or whether they have special needs. In these lessons, teachers explain that any insult is unkind and hurtful. Teachers explain that being gay is a type of adult relationship where two men or two women love each other in a romantic way, and if they choose, they can get married. Teachers are not expected to go beyond this definition and give more detail. It is simply explaining what being gay means and that the word ‘gay’ (or other LGBTQ+-related words) should not be used in an insulting or derogatory way.