

ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Mark Braund

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Dear Parents/Carers,

At St George's Catholic School, we aim to promote personal and emotional wellbeing through a comprehensive taught programme called SCARF. SCARF perfectly connects the pieces of Personal, Social and Health Education, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development into an easy to use lesson-a-week programme. This gives our pupils the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills they need to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education (RSE) following a nationwide consultation. These changes were supposed to come into effect from September 2020, but due to current circumstances and unprecedented times, they will be fully in place by the Summer Term 2021. The statutory guidance can be found on our school website. Details on how to access all materials related to our RSE consultation are given at the end of this letter.

The new RSE guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships. Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them take responsibility for their own wellbeing. Therefore, from the Summer Term 2021, Relationships and Sex Education, along with Health Education, will be statutory and form part of the National Curriculum.

The Senior Leadership Team, together with Governors, have been reviewing our RSE curriculum and identifying in what subjects we teach certain areas of RSE to ensure that our provision is appropriate for all our pupils based on their age, physical and emotional maturity, religious and cultural backgrounds, special educational needs and disabilities. Details on how to access all materials related to our RSE consultation are given at the end of this letter.

Whilst there may be slight differences of opinion on the teaching of RSE, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our school's decision making process and enable us to reach a consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would like to hear your views on:

- Our draft policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- How certain content within this subject is covered.

What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school as we are legally required to teach the National Curriculum. However, we value and are keen to hear your insights. The right to withdraw children from some lessons is explained in the FAQ document from the Bishop's Conference, which accompanies this letter. To help you to understand the curriculum and to consult with you, we have placed information on our website which we would encourage you to read. This includes:

- RSE Curriculum Map 2020
- Curriculum Overview 'A Journey in Love'
- Curriculum Sample 'A Journey in Love'
- Our proposed draft RSE Policy
- Link to DFE guidance that outlines statutory requirements
- A PowerPoint presentation for parents
- RSE in Catholic Schools FAQ document
- An RSE questionnaire
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3Uw9KN7IV06XfymowbLfetuS63RW3TNlrFmKsRcB10xURFdBQTM3M1E2SUcyUEIYOVPSPDFPN0tSRy4u>

To access this information, visit the school website, click on the '**Information**' tab and then click on '**RSE Consultation Spring 2021**'.

St George's Catholic School will undertake the consultation process for three weeks from the date of this letter.

Consultation Questions

1. Would you like support at home on how to speak to your child about relationships and sex issues?
2. Are there any changes or additions that you think should be made to the RSE Policy?
3. Are there any changes or additions that you think should be made to the RSE Curriculum?
4. Thinking about relationships and sex education, what do you believe is the most important subject area that should be taught for different age groups/key stages and why?
5. Thinking about relationships and sex education, is there an area that you think should not be taught for different age groups/key stages and why?

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to parents on the outcomes of this process later this term. Once we have considered all the feedback, the updated Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be uploaded to the school's website.

We hope this letter and the information provided on our school website informs and reassures you about the RSE policy and curriculum at our wonderful school. If you have any further queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Braund.