



Relationships & Sex Education (RSE)

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the academic year 2020/21, Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education will become statutory in all primary schools in England by the Summer term.

The main change is that RSE, or PSHE (physical, social and health education) as it's also known, has largely become a compulsory, foundation subject so it is now part of the national curriculum which all schools need to follow. The PSHE themes taught can also be found on our website and we have been covering these themes for a number of years. However, the Sex Education element at primary school is not compulsory. Year 6, parents still have the option to withdraw their children from the 2 contraception lessons by submitting a written request to Mrs Cavanagh. (But I would encourage you to look at the slides first on our website and I feel that children need to be given the correct information led by their teacher or the school nurse).

As a Catholic school, our mission is to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all of our pupils, rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Church. The education of children in human sexuality is an important, precious and privileged responsibility. The Church teaches us that this is very much a partnership with parents, in which parents are the 'first educators' of their children on these matters; ultimately, you confer on us the right to co-educate your children with you.

We have been researching various programmes that are available and have decided to continue to teach the updated version of **A Journey in Love** written by Sister Jude Groden, alongside a team of compilers with a rich experience in Education, medicine and pastoral theology. A Journey in Love has been approved by the Diocese and we feel that it compliments our existing PSHE lessons which it will be taught alongside in latter part of the Summer term.

We would like to have your feedback on our approach, and particularly on the key decisions that we need to take regarding the teaching of certain topics. To this end, we have opened a 2 week consultation period from **March 15th to March 26th** during which we welcome your feedback.

I have added all the Teaching slides on to the school website under the heading RSE, as well as the Parents' overview. Our draft Policy is also on there for you to read before it comes into effect in the Summer term. Please also take the time to watch the short video led by myself explaining the scheme. There is also a frequently asked questions section too. If you have any further questions regarding the delivery of RSE please message me via the parent app during the 2 week consultation period and I will try and answer them. Please be aware that we are bound by our legal duty to teach this curriculum and by the equality act.

The answers to any questions will be put on the website shortly after the consultation period has finished.

<https://holyrosary.oldham.sch.uk/sre/>

Mrs L Atkinson
(RE/RSE Lead)