

ST. AIDAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 5th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In line with the Department for Education Guidelines 2020, we are required to consult with you when developing and renewing our policy for the new statutory Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE).

Please note the new RSHE curriculum is supplementary to, not instead of, how we currently teach Relationship and Sex Education in our school as agreed by the Bishops of England and Wales in 2017. We will continue to use the recommended resource 'Journey In Love' (which has been recently been updated to reflect the changes in the new DfE statutory guidance) to support this aspect of the curriculum. If you would like to see a copy of the PowerPoint used for your child's year group, please contact the school office.

RSHE will continue to be taught throughout the academic year. In the Autumn term, we will concentrate on the Social and Emotional objectives, in the Spring term we will focus on the Spiritual journey and in the Summer term we will address the Physical objectives. RSHE will continue to be delivered by your child's class teacher.

As a Catholic school we must endeavour to follow the guidance from the Catholic Education Service on behalf of the Bishops of England and Wales and we are required to ensure that our teaching reflects our Catholic identity and mission and to be both age and stage appropriate for our pupils.

Please see the attached parents' information sheet from the DfE which outlines the proposed changes to the curriculum.

Once updated, approved and ratified by the Governing Body the policy will be published on our school website.

Attached to this letter is a parent questionnaire, I would be grateful if you could complete and return it to school at your earliest convenience. Your comments are important to us and help us to decide how and when to cover the content of the statutory guidance.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K. Gillard

Deputy Head Teacher/R.E. Lead

Understanding Relationships and Health Education in your child's primary school: a guide for parents

We want all children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, from September 2020, all primary age children will be taught Relationships and Health Education.

These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The world for all young people looks very different from the way it did 20 years ago when this curriculum was last updated – these changes bring the content into the 21st century, so that it is relevant for your child.

Your child's school will have flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.

Relationships Education

Relationships Education will put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including with family, friends and online.

Your child will be taught what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them. In an age-appropriate way, your child's school will cover how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families and people who care for me
- caring friendships
- respectful relationships
- online relationships
- being safe

You can find further detail by searching '**relationships and health education**' on GOV.UK.

Health Education

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.



By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

You can find further detail by searching '**relationships and health education**' on GOV.UK.

Your rights as a parent

The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum. Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up.

Your child's school is required to consult with you when developing and renewing their policies on Relationships Education. These policies must be published online and be available to anybody free of charge.

You can express your opinion, and this will help your child's school decide how and when to cover the content of the statutory guidance. It may also help them decide whether to teach additional non-statutory content. Schools are required to ensure their teaching reflects the age and religious background of their pupils.

Some schools will start to teach these subjects from September 2019 – if you'd like to know more, please speak to your child's school about what they plan to teach.



Right to withdraw your child

You cannot withdraw your child from Relationships Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe.

Your child's primary school can choose to teach Sex Education. If you'd like to know more about this, we recommend speaking to the school to understand what will be taught and when. If you do not want your child to take part in some or all of the lessons on Sex Education, you can ask that they are withdrawn. At primary level, the head teacher must grant this request.

The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.



Department
for Education

If you want to know more about what will be taught as part of the new subjects, the best thing to do is speak to your child's school.

Please complete and return by Thursday 12th November 2020

Which year group(s) is your child/ren in? Please circle

Nur Rec Y1 Y2 Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6

Are you aware of the school's current policy on Relationships, Sex and Health Education on our school website?

Yes No Comment:

Are you able to speak to your child about mental health matters?

Yes No Comment:

Are you able to speak to your child about the different kinds of family relationships?

Yes No Comment:

Are you able to speak to your child about general health and wellbeing?

Yes No Comment

Which of the following topics would you like to see covered more/less in school? Please tick

Growing and Changing

Similarities and differences

Feelings

Keeping safe (including internet and social networking)

Keeping yourself clean

Someone to talk to

Friendships

Families of all different kinds

How to seek help if needed

Harmful substances (Key Stage 1)

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco (Key Stage 2)

Choices and consequences

Mental Health

General Wellbeing

Gender stereotypes (Key Stage 1)

Gender and sexuality (Key Stage 2)

First Aid

Male and female body parts

Puberty (Key Stage 2)

Reproduction and birth (Key Stage 2)

Other? (Please specify)

Would you like Mrs Gillard to contact you to discuss the new Relationship, Sex and Health Education programme in more detail and to show you the resources that will be used? If so please give contact

details below

Yes No

Name ***** Telephone number *****

Please add any additional comments:
