

Monday 4th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a part of your child's enriching educational experience at St Mary's C of E Primary School and the Genesis Education Trust, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive programme of education, that reflects our Christian Vision, which will give our children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe and fulfilled lives.

The Department for Education announced changes to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) following nationwide consultation. These changes will come into effect within our school from September 2021 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. The statutory guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also 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 well-being.

Consequently, Relationships, along with Health Education, will be statutory and form part of the National Curriculum. For Secondary schools, Sex Education will also become statutory. However, the DfE continue to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Where schools provide sex education at Key Stages 1 and 2, parents will have the right to withdraw their child from sex education but not from statutory Relationships Education, Health Education or what is taught in the Science National curriculum.

As a result, we are reviewing our RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

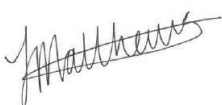
- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities

We hope that a parent consultation with you will help to inform our schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered. As part of our RSE curriculum review we would appreciate your views on our draft policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process by the end of this half term. Please note we will share a Google Questionnaire and set up a parent RSE workshop in the following days. Of course, if you have any questions you can arrange an appointment to meet with me personally.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Faithfully,



Mrs Matthews