



“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

Statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and the Health Education Curriculum

Dear Parents and Carers,

The revised Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education curriculum became statutory from September 2020 yet due to the pandemic its full implementation can be delayed until the summer term 2021 to allow time for consultation.

We last updated our RSE Policy in January 2019 and so this review of the policy required us to look at the new statutory context and include reference to updated resources. The Catholic Education Service (CES) has worked closely with the Department for Education (DfE) to produce resources that satisfy the requirements of the new statutory curriculum in the clear perspective of a Catholic context. We have chosen to continue to use the Journey in Love scheme and have updated the teaching resources to meet the statutory requirements.

In January 2021, Bishop Mark asked that each governing body nominate a foundation governor as an RSE governor who will on the Bishop’s behalf monitor the RSE curriculum and its adherence to Catholic teaching. I am pleased to say that our Chair of Governors, Elaine Morrissey has taken on this role. Mrs Morrissey, Mrs O’Hara, Mrs S. Davies and myself together with the staff have been looking at our RSE and Health Education provision in school. We have completed the CES training in Relationships, Sex and Health Education and the staff in school have also completed modules of the course.

Parents have the prime responsibility in teaching their children how to build healthy, loving relationships but Catholic schools play a vital part in supporting parents. Today’s children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

RSE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person. It is carried out as part of the holistic education which seeks to form as well as inform young people in preparation for adult life.

As part of our consultation I invite you to look at the attached documents which are also available on our website under the Curriculum tab - RSE:

- Our Draft Policy for Relationships and Sex Education
- Parent information about the Journey in Love Scheme
- DfE guide for primary parents

When you have looked at these documents please complete our website survey which asks if:

- you have understood and agree with the content of the Relationships and Sex Education Policy. Yes / No, please comment below:
- you have understood and agree with the content of the Relationships and Sex Education lessons my child will be taught. Yes / No, please comment below:
- Would you like more information or guidance on any aspect of Relationships and Health Education at St Wilfrid's?

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss anything further by emailing the school office.

The consultation will last until the end of February. The Draft RSE policy will then be made final and put before the Full Governing Body in March 2021 for ratification.

Thank you for taking part in this consultation, it will help us to ensure that our Relationships and Sex Education meet the needs of our children.

Yours sincerely,

Justine McEniff

Headteacher

12.2.2021

