



Monday 14th December '20

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for taking part in the parent/carer consultation on the draft proposal of the school approach to teaching Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and how this fits into the school's approach to Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). We have now reviewed the responses, and made some adjustments to our approach in delivering RSE.

I would like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to submit responses to the survey. The responses were positive about the proposed changes and the consensus was that these changes reflected the modern world we live in and the challenges this presents to our children.

We have identified some trends that came from written comments. They include:

- Communication between the school and parents is vital. Parents and carers want to know exactly what their children will be learning and when. Some parents and carers suggested they would like material sent to them before the lesson so they can be prepared and can support at home. Parents and carers would also like to know how their children reacted to and understood the content.
- Although most were supportive of the new content, a few expressed concerns over LGBT content. These concerns were primarily on religious grounds, highlighting our particular responsibilities as a church school.
- Parents were clear that they wanted new content introduced at age-appropriate stages.
- The most popular year group to begin learning about sexuality and homophobia was Year 6 which is in agreement with what the school is suggesting.
- The most popular year group to begin learning about puberty was Year 4 which is in agreement with what the school is suggesting.

The school is making the following adjustments as a result of the consultation process with parents and carers:

- There will be opportunities made to share content, materials and strategies with parents and carers before learning happens in school to support with preparing children and with their learning at home. This will be carried out in more depth in selected areas.
- An annual RSE meeting specifically surrounding more delicate topics including puberty and sex. This will be targeted predominantly at Year 4, 5 and 6 parents and carers but open to all.
- We have asked the diocese to recommend reading books (aimed at children), that teach about RSE from the Christian/Church perspective, should parents want to use this alongside more general secular texts we are using as part of our teaching. The diocese are looking into this and we will be in contact when we have heard from them.

We would assure parents that our approach to RSE has been rooted in and guided by our foundation as a church school. The Church of England has published a charter on RSE, stating:

All schools should approach RSHE in a faith-sensitive and inclusive way. Such an approach should seek to understand and appreciate differences within and across the teachings of the faith and other communities the school serves. It should afford dignity and worth to the views of pupils from the faith and other communities represented in the school as part of ensuring that the Equality Act of 2010 is applied in the school.

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The charter document this is taken from can be read in full through the link below:

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11///RSHE%20Principles%20and%20Charter_0.pdf

Thank you and with kind regards,

Ms Mulry (RSE and PSHE Lead) and Mr Richards (Headteacher)