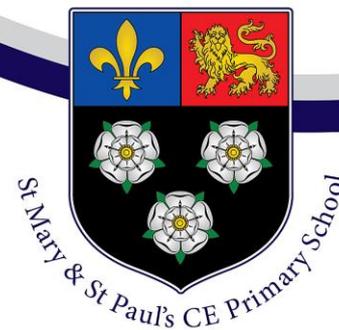


St Mary & St Paul's

CE Primary School

Bryer Road, Prescot, Merseyside L35 5DN • Tel: 0151 426 6869 • Fax: 0151 430 8266
Email: maryandpaul@knowsley.gov.uk • Web: www.stmaryandstpauls.org.uk



Monday 1st March

Dear Parent/Carers,

Re: Consultation of the new Relationship and Sex Education (as part of PSHE Policy)

This consultation begins on Monday 1st March and will close on Monday 15th March.

As a part of your child's education at St Mary & St Paul's CE School, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. This education gives young children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. Following a delay due to COVID-19, these changes will come into effect in the Summer Term of 2021. The Statutory guidance can be found at:

[Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/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, well-being, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them to take responsibility for their own well-being.

Consequently from April 2021, Relationships along with Health Education will be statutory and will form part of the National Curriculum. Whilst sex education is to become statutory in Secondary School, the DfE 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 KS2, parents have the right to withdraw their child from these lessons where they fall outside of the Science curriculum.

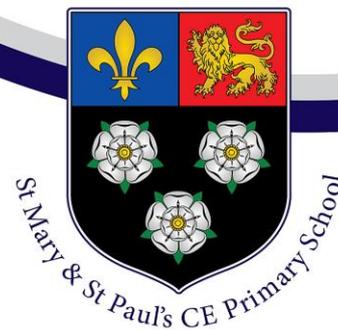
This means we have been reviewing our RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) curriculum and policy so that we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on:

- Age
- Physical maturity
- Religious beliefs and backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities

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Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this, I hope that consulting you will help to inform our school's decisions on when and how certain content is covered and enable us to reach a general consensus. Consequently, as part of our review, we would appreciate your views on our draft policy for PSHE / RSE.

What is taught and how this takes place is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content as schools are legally required to teach the National Curriculum.

As a school community, we are currently experiencing unprecedented times, which make it a little more difficult to consult with you. To help you understand the curriculum requirements, I have placed information on our website which I would encourage you to read. Part of this is a presentation to parents which I would have ordinarily shared with you in person. I have also provided you with another document which aims to respond to the questions that I anticipate might be asked.

You will find the following documents on our website:

- Our PSHE / RSE policy;
- Our PSHE Scheme of Work;
- Our RSE scheme of work for each year group;
- An overview of the RSE scheme of work;
- Two example lessons;
- A PowerPoint presentation for parents

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process before Spring Break. Once we have considered all the feedback, the finalised RSE Policy will be uploaded to the school's website along with the proposed curriculum.

I hope that this letter and the information on the school website go some way to answer any questions you may have. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Brooksbank
Deputy Headteacher