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12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Parent Information and Consultation on School RSHE Curriculum**

Here at St Mary Magdalen's, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education that gives children and young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives.

From Summer 2021, the Department for Education is making Relationships and Health Education (Primary) and Relationships Sex Education and Health Education compulsory in all schools. This has been delayed from September 2020 due to the extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in as a result of Covid-19. I am therefore writing to you to provide an overview of our relationship, sex and health education (RSHE) draft policy and curriculum overview that we propose to follow from the summer term 2021.

### **What does the new guidance mean?**

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, it will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and will help them take responsibility for their own well-being. All of the sessions will be age-appropriate and meet the needs of all pupils in the class.

### **What will the teaching of Relationships, Sex and Health Education look like in a Catholic context?**

In teaching this subject we will:

- be faithful to the Church's vision of human wholeness whilst recognising the contemporary context in which we live today;
- involve parents as they are primary educators of their child;
- provide a positive view of human sexuality and dignity of the human person;
- equip young people with the ability to make practical judgments about the right thing to do in particular circumstances;
- explore and promote virtues which are essential to promoting respect and dignity;
- deliver in an age appropriate way which reflects the development of the child;
- use cross-curricular work to support the subject;
- be sensitive to the needs of the individual pupil and recognise the mix of pupils with different family backgrounds in each class;





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### How will this be delivered?

As part of the school's Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme and science curriculum, we have purchased new resources to cover our Relationships, Health and Sex education (RSE) unit. All teaching in PSHE will take place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values. We will be using a programme from 'TenTen Resources' called 'Life to the Full'. This programme has been approved by our Diocese (the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle) and materials will be made available so you can see what is being taught in class and how to support your child at home.

We will teach the new RSE material within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church. As a Catholic School, we will be following the Diocesan Primary Curriculum Framework for Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education which is fully compliant with the statutory requirements as set out above. **We would like to make you aware that part of the 'Making Babies' module in Year 6 includes one module which covers how human life is conceived in the womb, including the language of sperm and ova.** These sessions will involve input from the school nursing team who will also deliver sessions to both boys and girls, separately, on how their bodies develop and change through puberty. The school will provide parental support by providing material for you to help children with their learning in this area, and please remember the benefits of this important education being taught in a safe environment.

### What if I have questions?

Please take some time to read the attached draft RSHE Policy & Guidance and our RSHE curriculum overview document (based on the TenTen resources – Life to the Full) which outline the modules covered across school from Early Years to Year 6. As a school community, we are committed to working with parents and your children in the best way that we can, preparing them for the world in which they live. Should you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can also comment on our draft RSHE policy by using the following google link.

<https://forms.gle/CZ3xMEacGTi4PGnG8>

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs. Robson*

Mrs. J. Robson (RSE Lead)

