

St Mary's Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy Handsworth

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships sex and health education (RSHE) following nationwide consultation. These changes need to be in effect by the summer term, when all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. We are keen to share what we are planning with you and to understand your views on it.

The main change is that RSHE, or PSHE (physical, social and health education) as it's also known, has largely become a compulsory foundation subject, so it is now part of the national curriculum which all schools need to follow. However, the sex education element at primary school is not compulsory. Where we cover this in the summer term in Year 6, parents still have the option to withdraw their children from this by submitting a written request to SREenquiry@stmryb20.org

We have always taught PSHE to our children at St Mary's and continue to use the Jigsaw resources in the summer term, "*Teaching RSE with Confidence*", for this. This is part of a wider programme of personal social and health education (PSHE) which includes lessons throughout the year on topics like anti-bullying, healthy friendships, keeping our bodies fit and healthy, ways to look after our mental health, keeping safe and being kind on line and many more. Our aim is to carefully build on children's understandings of these things each year and we do this using our school values of Love, Peace and Hope which underpin the main strands of taking care, resilience, integrity and values, as the base of our curriculum.

We invite you to have a look at the changes we are making and our new draft RSHE policy. We are keen to work with you as much as possible in explaining how RSHE is delivered at St Mary's. There may be questions or queries, which we hope you will raise with us. While most of our RSHE is required National Curriculum content now and we are unable to remove any of it, we do want to take on board feedback around how it is taught here and share all the information with you.

Our website shares our new draft policy, which we are happy to explain or answer any questions on before it comes into effect in the summer term. There is a curriculum summary of our RSHE attached. A more detailed full RSHE curriculum and our Jigsaw RSE teaching resources for the Summer Term are available to view upon request please email myself on the SREenquiry@stmryb20.org to book a meeting. The deadline for the last meeting will be Wednesday 31st March. We have created a frequently asked question document and shared some faith resources and the national guidelines on our website, under Parents; SRE information. This will also help to answer some of your questions. We highly recommend viewing these.

Thank you,

Miss Hira
PSHE LEAD

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