21st April 2021

Dear Parents,

At St Anne’s, we have recently reviewed our programme and policy for RSE (Relationship and Sex Education). We are writing to all our parents to share our new policy and curriculum overview.

All schools have a responsibility to promote pupil wellbeing and prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

“This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you” John 15:12.

At St Anne’s, we have tried to ensure that the RSE curriculum is sensitive to the range of different family circumstances, values and beliefs which are found within our school. Through extensive discussion and training we have tried to provide an RSE programme which is relevant and accessible to all of our children. We hope the programme supports pupils in learning about different backgrounds, faiths, cultures and about the opposite sex; one that is underpinned by the promotion of respect for all members of our diverse society. The new RSE programme of study will be delivered in a series of sessions across the whole of our school during the summer term (from EYFS to Year 6).

‘A Journey in Love’ is a resource that is the recommended programme of study by the diocese of Nottingham for Catholic Primary schools for Relationship and Sex Education. It has been written as a progressive scheme of work for all individual year groups that supports Religious Education, PSHE and the Science curriculum already taught within a primary school. The programme has, as its foundation, the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God and as a consequence, gender and sexuality are God’s gift and reflect God’s beauty. Each stage of growth is delivered through a series of suggested, progressive and developmental tasks and activities. Reflections will focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development. As children progress through school, they will discover more and more about themselves and the wider world. The scheme permeates through all levels of learning at St. Anne’s. It focuses on friendship, family, community, relationships and spirituality. Equally, to support with the teaching of RSE, teachers will also use both the 1 Decision PSHE and Wellbeing Scheme and Ten Ten ‘Life to the Full’ RSE resources, both also recommended and supported by the diocese.

As you would expect, not all issues related to personal development are covered by the end of Year 6. The content is age and stage appropriate and is taught with sensitivity, taking into account the children’s level of maturity in regard to the delivery of the sessions. Please see our the RSE tab on our school website to access our curriculum overview (this shows what is covered in each year group) and for a sample of some of the resources used as part of our RSE programme.

As with all aspects of learning, children are naturally curious and many will have specific questions related to their sessions. Opportunities to discuss questions form part of the sessions and, again, these are treated with care and understanding. Children will be given the opportunity both to ask questions verbally and pose questions through question boxes. Furthermore, due to the sensitivity of some topics discussed during these sessions, each class will create up a class set of rules to promote inclusion, openness and support. The RSE programme will be delivered by your child’s class teacher.

We do hope that all children will participate in the RSHE programme, however, parents do have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the RSE sessions that do not form part of the statutory National Curriculum. As shown on the curriculum overview, the Health Education objectives are compulsory for all pupils, however if you do wish to withdraw your child from the RSE aspect of the programme, please indicate this on the reply slip provided and return to school.

Yours faithfully,

Laurafoley

Miss Laura Foley

RSE Lead

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If you wish to withdraw your child from RSE, please indicate below and return to school as soon as possible.

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I do not wish my child to take part in the RSE programme.

Child’s name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_