



Surrey County Council  
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs T Lawlor

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### RE: RSE Consultation

As you will be aware we launched our official consultation period for the changes to the teaching and guidance of teaching Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in primary schools. These statutory changes have been brought about by the DFE. As a Catholic School and under the direction of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton we have ensured that our policy and curriculum are in line with DFE and Diocesan guidance.

The consultation period was to provide information to staff, parents and governors and ensure that people had the opportunity to ask questions with regard to the school's policy on teaching topics linked to RSE.

All teaching and support staff completed the Catholic Education Service (CES) training modules on the new requirements for teaching RSE in schools.

Governors have attended training and have discussed the changes and curriculum at relevant committee meetings.

All parents and carers were invited to a virtual meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. The meeting was a presentation and an opportunity to ask questions. Information is on the school's website and has been included in newsletters.

Below are the questions received and answers provided during the consultation period.

As I previously mentioned the consultation was for the school's policy and not the curriculum. As a school we will be using the scheme called: 'A Journey in Love'. We will be having a further staff meeting in May to plan lessons from the revised scheme to ensure the children receive RSE teaching before the end of the academic year.



**Hi, thank you for the presentation. Please can I ask, will you teach/support relationships outside of marriage are ok?**

Reply: We will teach that every family is unique and special and that families are all different. We would teach about the importance of a loving relationship. As a Catholic school we would teach and promote the sacrament of marriage but would put emphasis on loving relationships.

**Good evening everyone! Please advise if a gender identity/same sex marriage will be covered? and when?**

Reply: Same sex relationships would not be taught or promoted; however, they would be acknowledged as a loving relationship. If a child talks about a same sex relationship then it would be important for those comments and experiences to be valued. As a Catholic school we promote that we are all made in God's image and likeness.

**On same sex - understandably you can't promote, but would you categorically discourage during lessons?**

Reply: No, it would not be discouraged and dismissed it would be acknowledged and treated respectfully. We need to ensure that legally we comply with the Equalities Act and that we always ensure the dignity of the person is put first.

**Topics of a much more sensitive nature are reserved for RSHE in KS3 and 4 according to the DfE statutory guidance and the CES guidance as approved by the CES - am I correct?**

Reply: Correct, in primary schools our primary focus is relationships – promoting and teaching about healthy and loving relationships that will enable young people to go on to have healthy and secure relationships. It is really important that we empower our young children/people to feel secure in themselves so that their relationships with others are positive and happy.

**A follow up question on same sex relationships. Is this not taught due to Catholic Church or all schools are advised not to cover this? Will the school let children know same sex relationships are ok?**

Reply: Catholic schools do not teach about same sex relationships it is not in the curriculum. What is in the curriculum is families and how they are all different and special. The curriculum also enables us to teach about relationships; healthy and loving relationships. We would also ensure that children were not closed down when talking about more sensitive issues and that they would have time and space to share their thoughts. We would not always answer all questions and may say to children that is something we can't discuss fully or may need to seek further clarification from a senior member of staff or from Fr Tony. The important message is the dignity of the human being.



**Can we have Mrs. McGrath's email please.**

Reply: Mrs. McGrath is Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for RE and RSE, please contact her via [secretary@stjosephs-redhill.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@stjosephs-redhill.surrey.sch.uk).

**I have read that it will be possible to withdraw your child from non-compulsory RHSE sessions. Will you be able to advise how to do that?**

Reply: The guidance says that you can only withdraw your child from sex education which is not linked to the science national curriculum, science curriculum is statutory. In primary school we mainly teach relationships and health education and use the scheme 'A journey in Love'. Relationships and Health education is compulsory, and you cannot withdraw your child.

I hope you find the questions and answers useful. Please do contact us if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely



Mrs. Tamsyn Lawlor  
Headtecaher

