



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

15th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Relationships and Sex Education Policy consultation – this consultation begins on 16th June 2021 and ends on 1st July 2021

All students are taught Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at St Hilda's. This programme is well taught, comprehensive in nature and age appropriate. We are however updating this school policy. Our Draft RSE Policy is now available on our website.

Parents are also being invited to comment on this policy – please see below.

As a part of your child's educational experience at St Hilda's we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensively taught 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, 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. The statutory guidance can be found at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-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, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

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

Consequently, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, will be statutory, and form part of the National Curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on the following characteristics:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities

We hope that consulting with you will help to inform our decision on when and how certain content is covered and enable us to reach a consensus.

Consequently, as part of our curriculum review, we would like your views on the following:

- Our draft policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)
- When and how certain content within this subject is covered

What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for St Hilda's; however parents have the right to withdraw students from certain lessons. Section 8 of the RSE policy outlines the withdrawal process for parents / carers at this time.

As a Christian school we normally enjoy getting together in person to discuss things but as we are currently in unprecedented times, this makes it difficult to launch the consultation in person. To overcome this issue I have placed a link to a survey (google forms) on our school website. The survey asks some straightforward but relevant questions that will help up take the policy forward.

On our website, I have included:

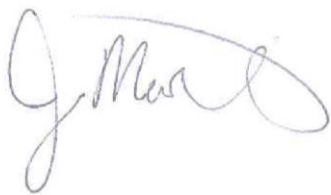
- Our proposed Draft Policy for Relationships and sex education policy
- An overview of the proposed curriculum found within the policy (a shorter summer term plan for this year is also included).
- A link to a consultation questionnaire.

We will be starting our consultation process on 16th June 2021, and the consultation will close on 1st July 2021.

Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process. Once we have considered all the feedback, the finalised Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be uploaded to our website, which will also set out the proposed curriculum.

I hope this letter and attached information goes 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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Martin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J. Martin (assistant headteacher)