

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (Aided) PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1789



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'Learning for life with God as our guide'

16th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

I am writing to tell you about a new scheme of work which we will be using at St Mary's CEP to teach our Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. The scheme is called 'Jigsaw' and the materials are used by many schools locally and further afield.

Jigsaw

The Jigsaw scheme is made of up six units (puzzles) – one for each term. These are taught every year in every year group with increasing complexity and content as the children get older.

Units of Work

In the autumn terms the units of work are '*Being me in My World*' and '*Celebrating Difference*'. These lessons build children's emotional literacy, self-esteem and knowledge of who they are and how they relate to each other and the world in a positive and healthy way. They also explore the range of different families and learn to challenge the reasons that people bully.

During the spring terms the taught units are '*Dreams and Goals*' and '*Healthy Me*'. These lessons include goal-setting and aspirations as well as drugs and alcohol education, self-esteem and confidence and healthy lifestyle choices.

The summer term units are called '*Relationships*' and '*Changing Me*'. The lessons include understanding friendship, family and other relationships, bereavement and loss. The Changing Me unit includes, in every year group, 2 or 3 lessons to help children understand the changes puberty brings and how human reproduction happens. The younger year groups are not looking at these issues directly and explicitly but rather learning correct terminology for body parts and doing the foundation work for later year groups. The Years 5 and 6 lessons look more fully at puberty and human reproduction.

Statutory Responsibility

Relationships and Health Education became statutory for all schools to teach in September 2020.

Sex Education is not statutory for primary schools, however the Department for Education Guidance (2019) recommends that all primary schools 'have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils.' At St Mary's CEP we define Sex Education as understanding human reproduction. We believe that Sex education 'should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science – how a baby is conceived and born'.

Sex Education

The main elements of Sex Education are covered from Year 4. Having a baby including the parts of men and women that make babies and, in simple terms, how this happens as well as menstruation is taught in Year 4 with conception taught in Year 5 and pregnancy and birth in Year 6.

Puberty will be taught as a statutory requirement of Health Education and covered by our Jigsaw PSHE programme 'Changing Me', however, you do have the right to withdraw your child from the Sex Education Lessons taught in Term 6. We will write to you again in plenty of time with further information about the programme of study so that you can make an informed decision. Please be reassured that we have taught elements of sex education in Year 5 and 6 for some years now and have always given parent/carers the right to withdraw their child should they wish.

Your Views Matter

We would like to know what you think about the plans for our new PSHE curriculum. Please see the leaflets and information on our school website for further information; the link is below.

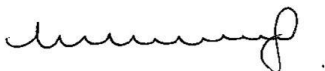
<https://www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=PSHE&pid=425>

We are very happy to answer any queries or questions that you may have and will be aiming, in the future, to hold parent/carer meetings at school where we can talk in more detail about the content of the PSHE curriculum.

In the meantime if you have any queries please do not hesitate to make contact via telephone or email with me or Mr Lamprell.

I thank you for reading this information and would be grateful if you could complete and return the slip below by Thursday, 25th November.

Yours sincerely



H Comfort
Executive Headteacher

REPLY SLIP : Return to school by Thursday, 25th November 2021

Child's name: _____ Class: _____

Please read and tick against the read statements. You are welcome to write additional comments in the spaces provided. Thank you.

- ☐ I have received the letter dated 11th November 2021 regarding PSHE at St Mary's.
- ☐ I understand the information and the curriculum content which has been outlined.
- ☐ I am happy with the curriculum content.
- ☐ I agree that the school should teach Sex Education and am happy with the school definition of this.
- ☐ I have some questions and/or concerns they are:-

Please use back of sheet if necessary.

- ☐ I wish to make the following additional comments:-

Please use back of sheet if necessary.

Parent/Carer Name: _____ Date: _____