



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Calder Road, Rawtenstall, Lancashire, BB4 8HT  
Headteacher: Mrs Charlesworth  
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School Office: 01706 215893

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Please read this information carefully as it contains curriculum coverage for the teaching of Relationships Education, Health Education and Sex Education over the next half term**

From September 2020, Relationships and Health Education became compulsory in all primary schools and parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from these subjects. We believe that this work is an important part of safeguarding children as knowledge empowers them, helps them to stay safe and cope with puberty by understanding why their bodies will change.

At St Paul's, we define 'sex education' to mean 'human reproduction'. This is in line with the SCARF scheme that we use. Parents **do have the right to withdraw** their child from the 'Making Babies' lesson which includes human reproduction. **This is only taught to our Year 6 children.** If you do wish to withdraw your child from the human reproduction lesson and your child is either **a Year 6 Oaks or Willows student** please contact the office to speak to Mrs Charlesworth. Withdrawal requests can only be approved by the Head Teacher.

**Why is this RSHE curriculum needed?**

There are four main aims for teaching RSE within the context of Primary School PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education):

- More than ever before, children are exposed to representations of sex and sexuality through the social culture around them. The unregulated content on the internet or social media, can mean children may be exposed to dangerous, confusing or scary content. We can prepare them for this by presenting a balanced view of positive healthy relationships to help them to be discerning and to stay safe.



- There is much independent research showing most parents and carers value the support of schools in providing Relationship and Sex Education for their children. Parents and schools want children to be safe and happy.
- A range of independent research consistently shows that effective Relationship Education delays first sexual experience and reduces risk-taking in young people.
- Surveys of children and young people, as well as Ofsted, have repeatedly said that Relationship and Sex Education tends to be "too little, too late and too biological". This is one of the many reasons why the Department for Education has made Relationships and Health Education compulsory in primary schools from September 2020, with an emphasis on Relationships Education.

### **What will my child actually be taught in the Changing and Growing Unit?**

The SCARF unit 'Changing and Growing' is taught over a period of 6 weeks in Summer Term 2. Each year group will be taught appropriate to their age and developmental stage. If a question arises and the teacher feels it would be inappropriate to answer, the child will be encouraged to ask his/her parents/carers at home. The question will not be answered to the child or class if it is outside the remit of that year group's lesson.

Children in Elms Class will be taught:

- Understanding relationships and what makes a healthy relationship
- Body space and saying no
- The difference between secrets and surprises including what are safe and unsafe secrets
- What to do if they have an unsafe secret.

At St Paul's the 'Positive Periods' sessions will be taught in Year 4. However we recognise that it is not unusual for children to begin their periods around the age of 8. If you feel your child needs more information now there is lots of useful information on this website recommended by the SCARF Growing and Changing unit, including a short video clip –

<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/menstruation.html#>

If you have any questions about the Growing and Changing Unit please do not hesitate to contact your class - teacher in the first instance.

Kind Regards

Mrs Cooper – PSHE / RSE Lead



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