



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 25th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing in regards to our RSHE Policy (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) and to inform you that we are holding a consultation process with parents to gather your thoughts and opinions on it's contents. It is important that we go through this process as a school family as your views are important to us; also you are your child's first educators at home and we want to make sure our RSHE policy is suitable for the community that we serve.

Relationships and Health Education is statutory, which means that we have to teach these areas as set out in the governments guidance for RSHE (which can be found by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>).

Sex Education is optional in primary school and there are many reasons why schools choose to teach or not teach this element at a primary level. As a school staff and governing body, we feel that it is important to teach our pupils about sex education – and we would do this in Year 6. We want our pupils to have an age appropriate awareness of this topic, mainly to keep them safe and informed as they continue to grow into adolescence. Parents do have a right to withdraw their children from sex education if they so wish. Although we have found in the past that this is a rarity, as we will work with and support parents who are unsure as to whether they want their child to access the relevant lessons.

To compliment this work, we will also teach our older children about the changes they face in puberty in Year 5 and then again in Year 6. We are finding that more and more children are starting to reach puberty at a young age, some children even showing signs in Year 4, so again we want our pupils to be informed so that when their bodies start to change they are not worried or unsure about what is happening to them. We currently teach the children about puberty in Year 6 anyway. It is worth noting that puberty comes under health education and it is statutory that we teach the children about this.

Our RSHE policy, that you can find by following the link below, will outline the teaching content that we plan to deliver to the children. Please read through the policy and if you have any thoughts or opinions on it, please do get in touch with us. The best way to do this will be to email us at office@st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk.

<https://www.st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk/uploads/files/RSHE%20Policy%20March%202021.pdf>

This letter is saved on our website <https://www.st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk/parents/rshe-policy.html> and the policy, and examples of the materials we will use to teach the children, are also saved on this web page.

Please make sure if you do want to share your opinions that this is done by Monday 19th April 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Belfield
Principal