

Our Ref: DSU/FIH

6th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We wrote to you in December 2021 to let you know that the new curriculum requiring schools to teach Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) came into force in September 2021. These topics have been/will be delivered through the wider Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE+) programme.

The purpose of this curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.

The programme that we are using is called "Life to the Full" and has been endorsed by Bishop Terence who has encouraged schools to use this programme to deliver the RSE curriculum. The programme will address the needs of our young people and the world that they live in today. The teaching includes lessons on puberty, personal hygiene, fertility, menstruation, family and friends, sexual intimacy, delaying sex, an understanding of the body, sexuality, marriage, gender, online relationships, social media, consent, grooming, pressure, STIs, contraception and natural family planning, abortion/miscarriage, the effect of drugs and alcohol on relationships, pornography and sexual exploitation. This has been developed so that it follows the guidelines of the Catholic Education Service and will meet all our statutory obligations.

You do have a right to withdraw your child from Sex Education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

Following Jesus, building families, fulfilling potential

Headteacher: Mrs L Dwyer Trinity Catholic College, Lacy Road, Middlesbrough. TS4 3JW Tel: 01642 298100| Email: enquiries@trinity.npcat.org.uk | Website: trinity.npcat.org.uk

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There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at secondary level and we believe the contact of these subjects are important for all children to be taught. The content of the curriculum is available in more detail on our website.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions for us about this aspect of our curriculum.

Yours sincerely

Miss D Sumner Line Manager for PSHE+

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