



## St Nicolas and St Mary Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Eastern Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 6PE

Tel: 01273 454470 Email: [office@stnm.org.uk](mailto:office@stnm.org.uk)

Web: <http://www.stnicolasmarty.w-sussex.sch.uk/>

Headteacher Mr D Etherton B.Ed Hons. NPQH

Associate Headteacher Mr A Lincoln

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Further to my previous letter, I am now sending out some additional information on our proposed RSE curriculum and a parent/carers survey to gauge your final thoughts. During the past few weeks, we have also had further consultations with Governors and Staff and following your survey responses, Governors will be making a final decision on this on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

The grid below outlines the proposed RSE topics for each year group and those linking to the PSHE and Science curriculums. We have also put together a list of FAQ, which we hope will be helpful.

To find the draft RSE Policy, please visit our website at: [http://www.stnicolasmarty.w-sussex.sch.uk/\\_site/data/files/letters/EA9C499E04E0F269B28BB57EE7E7CF3B.pdf](http://www.stnicolasmarty.w-sussex.sch.uk/_site/data/files/letters/EA9C499E04E0F269B28BB57EE7E7CF3B.pdf)

We are sending out a survey link via Teachers2parent. Please ensure that any survey responses are returned by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Many thanks and best wishes

Dr Victoria Bishop

Assistant Headteacher.



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### PROPOSED RSE CURRICLUM

Statutory science content is green

Statutory PSHE content is in blue

Proposed RSE content is in red.

Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boys and girls naming body parts (including the genitalia)</li> <li>Use of the NSPCC Pants song.</li> <li>In the Different families lesson, showing pictures of different types of families including some with two mums or two dads. LGBTQ is not specifically mentioned but these would just be pictorial representations of different families alongside many other pictures of the diverse range of families which make up our community.</li> </ul>
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-capping on body parts and respecting privacy. Which parts of the body are private and why that is.</li> </ul>
Year 3	<p>Recap lesson on different types of families (see Goodness and Mercy KS2 Suggested activities, Lesson 1)  <a href="https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/teaching-resources/">https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/teaching-resources/</a>            Reference to the fact that same sex couples are part of the make-up of different families.</p>
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal and External reproductive body parts and body changes in girls and boys during puberty including menstruation (separate classes for boys and girls).</li> <li>Lesson on Anti-bullying provides the opportunity to address any homophobic language which the children may have heard eg 'gay' or 'lesbian' and what those terms really mean in a very simple way eg Being gay is a type of adult relationship where two men or two women love each other in a romantic way and if they choose they can get married.</li> </ul>
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second puberty lesson (separate classes for boys and girls).</li> </ul>
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recap on puberty</li> <li>Teach 3 sex education lessons from the Goodness and Mercy resources see:  <a href="https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/teaching-resources/">https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/teaching-resources/</a></li> </ul>

Please note that the curriculum needs to be flexible, depending on the needs of each cohort, but parents would be informed before additional RSE lessons (outside this curriculum) are taught. It is also important to realise that children always ask questions and we never know what and when they will be asked! Teachers will always deal sensitively with such questions as they come up and let parents know if there is something we feel that we be good for them to discuss with their child. Please read more about this in the FAQ below.



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### FAQ

*Why should we teach RSE?*

RSE is important because it enables young people to understand and respect their bodies and be able to cope with the changes puberty brings without fear or confusion.

RSE helps young people develop healthy relationships appropriate to their stage of development and to learn to respect others.

RSE helps young people to have a positive image of themselves and their bodies and to understand the influences and pressures around them.

RSE helps to protect your child and keep them safe. It also helps them to recognise when others are at risk and equips them with the skills they need to take appropriate action.

*Does RSE contradict our school's Christian teaching and values?*

The curriculum we will be teaching has been recommended by the Church of England and the Diocese and embraces the concept that each and every person should be loved and valued because they are made in God's image. Our Governors and Staff team have reviewed the curriculum content and are happy that it is in line with our Christian values.

*Will teaching sex education take away my child's innocence?*

No – the evidence suggests that high quality RSE teaching actually delays young people's first sexual experiences and helps them to make informed choices to ensure their safe guarding. High quality RSE takes away ignorance and not innocence.

*Can I withdraw my child from RSE lessons?*

Yes – you are able to withdraw your child from RSE specific lessons or part of a lesson where RSE content is taught. However you are unable to withdraw them from the statutory science and PSHE lessons.

If you are considering taking your child out of RSE lessons please consider the following:

All other pupils in the class will have been taught this information and may well talk to your child about it – perhaps in the playground. The information they may relay may be incorrect or misleading. They may also search independently for information online which could be unsafe or harmful. It is perhaps better to allow experienced teaching staff to inform your child in a safe and controlled environment.



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Your child will be learning about reproduction in science lessons and the RSE/PSHE lessons echo this content and support them in forming healthy, appropriate relationships and developing self-esteem and confidence when dealing with different situations in future.

**Before making a decision to withdraw, please do speak to your child's teacher or one of the leadership team, who are happy to discuss your concerns further.**

*Will support be provided for children who are fostered or adopted, or may have had difficult early experiences?*

Where appropriate, we will ensure that parents/carers receive adequate time and materials to broach upcoming topics with their children in advance. Individual cases will also be discussed with the SEND & Looked After Child/Post Looked After Child team prior to teaching in case there is any specific advice. At this point, discussions with individual families may take place if necessary.

*What happens if a child asks a question which is outside this curriculum (ie too grown up), inappropriate or sensitive?*

As a school we have made a decision amongst our teaching team, that if this happens we will deal with it as follows:

Use the suggested script - 'That is a **deep question**. It is not something we will be discussing right now but I am making a note that you have asked it.'

In this way, we can decide to do one or more of the following:

Let the parent know that this is something which has been asked so that we can discuss together how to proceed.

Consult with class parents if it is something which could be relevant for discussion with the whole class that is outside the usual curriculum eg gender.

Speak individually with the child if this is something of a personal nature which is best discussed away from a whole class situation.