

St. Michael's Church of England (VA) Junior School

By God's Love, we all flourish together

Barnard Road Galleywood Chelmsford Essex CM2 8RR

Telephone: (01245) 472682  stmichaels.junior

Email: admin@st-michaels-jun.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.st-michaels-jun.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Rowen Prigg BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Dines BA (Hons)



St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School

23rd June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of your child's educational experience at St Michael's, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives children and young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive, and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes will come into effect from September 2021 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements. The statutory guidance can be found at

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

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

Learning about emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

Consequently, from September 2021, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, will be statutory, and form part of the National Curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our PSHE including Sex Ed and RSE policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities

Whilst I am sure that there will be differences of opinion about this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered and enable us to reach a general consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review, we would like your views on:

- Our draft Policy for PSHE including Sex Ed and RSE
- Our curriculum content



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What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content as schools are legally required to teach the National Curriculum. The right to withdraw children from **some** lessons is explained in the policy.

We are currently in unprecedented times however as a school community, which makes it a little more challenging to consult with you.

To this end we request that you read the attached draft policy and the curriculum content and complete a short google form. To access the google form please click on the link below or copy and paste the link into your search engine browser.

<https://forms.gle/sW3NHrE4qM3tbiL79>

St Michael's will be starting their consultation process on Friday 25th June 2021, the consultation will close on Friday 9th July 2021.

Your views are very important to us, and we will respond to you on the outcome of the process later this term. Once we have considered all the feedback, the draft updated policy will be uploaded to the school's website which will also set out the proposed curriculum and how you can feedback.

I hope this letter and attached information goes some way to alleviate any worries you may have. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Rowen Prigg

Headteacher

