**St Patrick's Catholic Primary School- Relationship and Health Education**

# Further Information on Key Decisions

**Life to the Full: Programme Content**

The Life to the Full programme adopts a spiral curriculum approach so that as a child goes through the programme year-after-year, the learning will develop and grow, with each stage building on the last.

The content can be found through the online parent portal using the following login details:

**Username:** st-patricks-se18

**Password:** green-wall

**Parent Portal:** https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/

There are a number of key decisions that we ask schools to consider before implementing the programme.

**Key Decision 1: Genitalia**

Genitalia is not named in Early Years Foundation Stage; private parts are merely referred to as 'privates'. However, in Key Stage One, a decision must be made about whether to introduce names of genitalia to Years 1 and 2. Some of our advisers and dioceses have recommended that we do provide resources which discuss genitalia, some have recommended that we do not. Therefore, we have produced 2 different versions of the same resource.

The case for introducing teaching about genitalia at this age is two-fold.

The first is that this is the stage at which we talk to children about the differences between boys and girls. Here, it is important not to uphold negative gender stereotypes and, in fact, the non-physical differences between boys and girls at this age are small and difficult to define. By linking gender to biological sex, it helps children to understand the difference, equality and complementarity of boys and girls.

The second is a safeguarding issue. The argument goes that if young children are better able to confidently articulate about private body parts, they are better equipped to identify experiences of feeling uncomfortable if any form of abuse takes place.

The argument against teaching about genitalia at Key Stage One is that it could engender an interest in private body parts that may be unhelpful at this age.

We hear and respect both arguments, and so we present these decisions for schools to make in consultation with your parents and governing body, according to your RSE Policy.

***Our Proposal:***

***We will continue to use the words 'privates' with the children in Key stage 1 but make the material available to parents if they wish to use biological names with their Year 1 and 2 children.***

## Key Decision 2 : Puberty

In Module 2 of Lower Key Stage One, we have provided two sessions on puberty and changing bodies. We have recommended these sessions for Year 4+ but again we recommend that a decision is made locally about the best time and place for the teaching of these sessions.

Some further information:

The NHS website says the following:

"The average age for girls to begin puberty is 11, while for boys the average age is 12. But it's different for everyone. It's completely normal for puberty to begin at any point from the ages of 8 to 14. The process can take up to 4 years."

***Our Proposal:***

***We will continue to teach this from Year 5 and into Year 6 (supported by the school nurse) but make specific members of staff available to any child who needs access to this information earlier.***

## Key Decision 3: Talking About Sex

The third key area for consideration is about whether to include a session in Upper Key Stage Two which answers the question: 'Where do babies come from?'

Naturally, this question leads to a discussion about sexual intercourse and we would like to leave it to the individual school, in consultation with parents, about the inclusion of this session. Teaching about sexual intercourse to primary school children is not part of the statutory curriculum; however, a number of dioceses that we have partnered with have asked that resources are provided which deal with this topic as it is a natural progression of the conversation around the scientific understanding of how babies are made (sperm and egg).

We have therefore provided a session which can be provided in two ways:

1) A regular session as part of the Paradise Street sessions;

2) As an optional resource which parents can lead with their children at home.

What happens?

In episode 10 of "Paradise Street", one of our characters, Finn, asks his parents the direct question – how did the sperm get inside mum's body and meet the egg? The response given by his parents is honest and direct. As Christian parents, their response is rooted in God's love but they also describe what happened physically between them to create a child.

In the follow-up discussion in the episode of "Delving Deeper" after the drama, a further scientific explanation is given, involving reference to the penis entering the vagina. This teaching is provided within the context of marriage being God's plan for the place of sex within a relationship.

The session concludes with a personal writing activity in which pupils consider God's plan for relationships. It endorses that God loves and accepts them no matter what and allows space for

personal responses to questions about their own families. Inspired by the presenter Nathan in Delving Deeper, there is also an opportunity for a creative writing exercise called 'A Recipe for Love'.

There are some important, delicate decisions to be made here about this session.

Firstly, this session can be completely omitted. The rest of the programme will run perfectly fine without it.

Secondly, a school can opt to give the sessions to parents to lead at home (the full video content will be made available through the Online Parent Portal). Parents, of course, can choose to opt out of showing their children the video and talking about it.

However, we have tried to create a session with delicacy and care and we believe that it provides powerful teaching in an age-appropriate way on love, intimacy and marriage.

***Our Proposal:***

***We would like to continue to teach puberty and human lifecycles in Science only but we will provide this additional sex education content for parents to use at their own discretion.***

## Key Decision 4: Talking About Pornography

The final key decision concerns talking about pornography. One of the sessions in Upper Key Stage Two addresses the risks that children face from seeing pornographic images and videos online. On the one hand, this is very much a lesson about 'internet safety' and therefore falls under the statutory Health Education curriculum.

However, some schools and parents may also consider that this falls under the non-statutory Sex Education curriculum. We encourage schools and their parents to make their own decision about this.

We appreciate the delicate nature of these decisions and know that different schools and dioceses will have different opinions on the most appropriate approach. We will always try to keep you

***Our Proposal:***

***We will teach internet safety and use the word 'inappropriate' to describe content- we will not use the term 'pornography'.***