ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Griffin Road, Plumstead, London SE18 7QG
Tel: 0208 854 3881 • Fax: 0208 855 9288 • Email: headteacher@stpatricksprimary.org.uk
Website: www.stpatricksprimary.org.uk

Headteacher: Ms. M. Murphy | Deputy: Mr. K. Perry

15.10.26

Dear Parents,

Relationship and Health Education- Parent Consultation

In 2020, Relationships Education and Health Education became statutory for all primary schools in England. Then in July 2025 the Department for Education published new Guidance for teaching RSHE, implemented from September 2026 and so this is a timely moment to reconsult parents.

The Department of Education requires that all school provide parents with as much information as possible about the programme chosen by the school. This information pack is to provide parents with a clear overview of the content that will be taught within this programme and to ask parents to contribute their responses to proposals around optional content.

The Life to the Full Programme

As a Catholic school, our mission is to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils, rooted in the wisdom of teachings of the church. The church teaches us that this is very much a partnership with parents, in which parents are the 'first educators' of their children in these matters; ultimately, you confer on us the right to co-educate your children with you.

The school continues to use the approved programme called Life to the Full which meets the requirements from the Department of Education and is also in line with the teachings of the church. Some of the content that we share with the children is optional however and for the past few years we have made the following Key decisions listed below. The proposal is that we continue with these options. During this consultation period, we invite parents to offer their perspective on these choices, by completing the questionnaire and returning it to the school office by Friday 6th November.

In the attached pack, we have also provided more detailed information about the arguments for and against the key decision options.

The key decisions are:

Key Decision 1: Genitalia

What names should we use for private parts of the body from Year R to Year 6?

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 what Year group should we begin to teach about Puberty?

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.

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Key Decision 3: Talking about sex

Should we teach in detail 'where babies come from'? (Teaching about sexual intercourse to primary school children is NOT part of the Department of Education statutory curriculum but primary schools can choose to do this.)

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: Pornography

Should we use the term 'pornography' when raising awareness to safeguard children from seeing pornographic images and videos online?

Our Proposal:

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

The producers of the Life to the Full programme, have also provided an on-line parent portal to provide more detailed information about the programme. (Login details below)

Further information can also be found on the RHE section on the school website: https://www.stpatricksprimary.org.uk/

We hope that we are being as open and transparent as possible with parents about the content of the programme and what we plan to teach their children in this sensitive area of the curriculum.

We would be most grateful for your feedback on our proposals for these key decisions and look forward to receiving your completed questionnaires.

I am also available to meet and discuss these important matters with parents individually.

Your sincerely,

Ms M. Murphy

Headteacher

Parent Portal details

Username: st-patricks-se18

Password: green-wall

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