



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 18 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Response to our RSE consultation

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our consultation on the proposed RSE policy either in writing or through conversations. There was a wide range of responses with many differing views and some questions posed which we are happy to answer for you.

The RSE programme covers all year groups within primary school. It helps children to understand the importance of relationships with friends, family and our community. Children learn about the importance of being respectful to others and having self-respect too. It helps children to develop their understanding of how to be a good friend and how to live a good, honest and moral life. These areas are taught over years and build up gradually in an age appropriate way.

The sex education element of this programme will be taught in Year 6 for three one hour lessons over a period of three weeks in the summer term and children are taught the basic facts of human reproduction within a loving relationship. The School will inform parents of when this will be taught in good time with the hope that the subject can be raised at home at a convenient time and discussed in the family setting with parents who we value as the first educators of our children. This part of the programme is not compulsory for primary children and parents who wish to withdraw their child from this series of lessons are able to do so.

At Holy Cross we have decided to teach this area of the curriculum for a number of reasons. We are aware that some children will be taught these important lessons at home but not all will. We would like to think that when taught these sensitive and important lessons in School children will already have had conversations at home and teaching in School will simply enhance the learning. For many children however the lessons in School will be the first time they have been given this information. In secondary school children will have sex education but they will be with new classes and teachers who do not teach them for more than one or two sessions per week. We feel that being within a class they know well with a teacher who guides them throughout each day is a more comfortable arena in which to learn such important information.

All Lewisham Catholic primary schools are following the same programme as we are at Holy Cross and using the Catholic Education Service model policy as we are. As Headteachers we have discussed the options and felt this was best for our schools. Many of our local Catholic schools have followed a similar programme for some years now.

The children currently in Year 5 will be taught aspects from the Year 5 and 6 curriculum from September 2021 as the programme runs on a two year rota and so they will need to gain full understanding.

Lessons will be taught by class teachers who know the children well. We understand that children ask questions of all our staff at different times in the day and we will always answer questions from children in an appropriate manner. If a child asked a question regarding sex education they would be advised to speak to their parents and the Head of School or Executive Headteacher would be informed that this subject had been raised.

We are keen to show you the resources we will use for our RSE sessions in School and invite you to access the parent portal of the TenTen website so that you can see them. The TenTen website offers a parental consultation tool. This gives a full picture of the programme for you to understand. This is available for you to view via the link below:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/courses/parent-consultation-tool-primary/>

TenTen also offers us, as a user of their programme, a parent portal for you to see and to use with your children within the family home. Please do take a look and see the resources that will be used by our staff. We already use TenTen as part of our RE lessons and our collective worship sessions in class and assemblies. When you click on the link you will require the username and password for our School as listed below.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

Username is holy-cross-se6

Password is black-cat-6

I am grateful for the time you have taken to consider this important aspect of our curriculum and I will share all responses with our Governing Body when they meet at the end of this term. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Mary Collins
Executive Headteacher of Aspire London



not to have more but to be more
saint oscar romero