St Paul's Catholic Junior School

Love God Love Life Love Learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE (and the Welsh Assembly Government) RSHE is firmly embedded in the PSHE/RSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All Relationship, Sex and Health Education RSHE will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

At St Paul's, we aim to provide a suitable programme that follows the statutory need to include RSHE into our curriculum and meets the ethos of its Catholic identity and mission. *To support the teaching of RSHE within St Paul's we use 'A Journey in Love'* and 'Life to the Full – Ten Ten' both are Archdiocesan recommended resources.

'A Journey in Love' is a resource created by Sister Jude Groden of BRES. It is the recommended programme of study for Catholic schools for Relationships and Sex Education, and has been written as a progressive scheme of work that supports the Religious Education, PSHE and Science curricula taught within the school. This resource has been recently revised to ensure it is up to date and links where appropriate to DfE guidelines.

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Throughout '*A Journey in Love*', an aspect of the mystery of love is focussed upon in each group. Children and young people are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's creative love. This is reflected in each stage of a person's growth in the Primary Years through a series of suggested, progressive and developmental tasks, activities and reflections which focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

As with all aspects of learning, children are naturally curious and many will have questions related to their lessons. Opportunities to discuss questions form part of the lessons and again these are treated with care and understanding.

'*A Journey in Love*' highlights the importance of parental input and children will be told to discuss their lessons at home. As a parent, you have the right to withdraw your child from Relationships and Sex Education at any time if you wish to do so, however, this is not to be confused with Science topics such as 'Life Cycles' as they are statutory requirements.

Samples of content from the programme of study along with our RSHE policy can be found on the RSHE section of our website. Year 5 and 6 children will be completing discrete RSHE lessons during this half term. If you have any concerns or queries around the teaching of RSHE then please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs C O'Callaghan
Interim Headteacher

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