



Parent consultation letter regarding our Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

Monday 24th May 2021

Dear parent/carer,

This school year we have been implementing the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) Programme across our school called Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE. The lessons since September, have built children's emotional literacy, self-esteem and knowledge of who they are and how they relate to each other and the world in a positive and healthy way. We are sure you will have heard your child talk about Jigsaw and Calm Me time at home.

The Summer Term Puzzles (units) are about Relationships (unit 1) and Changing Me (unit 2). The Changing Me Puzzle includes lessons to help children understand the changes puberty brings and how human reproduction happens. There is a very serious safeguarding aspect to this work and obviously the younger year groups are not looking at these issues directly and explicitly but rather learning correct terminology for body parts and doing the foundation work for later year groups. The Years 5 and 6 lessons look more fully at puberty and human reproduction.

The government has made Relationships Education and Health Education statutory for all primary schools and we would really value this opportunity as a school to share these new statutory requirements with you so you are clear about the curriculum we intend to teach the children, why we feel this is so important, and also the aspects parents have the right to withdraw their children from. As a staff we have recently agreed upon a draft policy for *Relationships, Sex and Health Education* in our school and our next step is to encourage you to view this too on our school website and give us your feedback and input. Alongside the policy we would also encourage you to read the parent information leaflet and mapping documents on the website which further explains our approach and content. When viewing the parent information leaflet I would like to draw your attention to a key change we have made as a staff to the Jigsaw content. In the leaflet it says we will cover conception in simple terms for 8 and 9 year olds (Year 4). As a staff we have decided that this learning is best left until Year 5 therefore we will **not** be teaching human reproduction in Year 4.

Your views are especially important to us and once you have read the draft policy and attached information on our website we will be hosting an **online Draft Policy Q&A session using Google Meet on Wednesday, 9th June at 6pm** where we warmly invite you to come along if you wish to share any feedback or ask any questions about the policy. You can join this session using the following information:

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Meeting for Parents

Wednesday, 9 June · 6:00 – 6:30pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ibs-vyyk-gij>

Or dial: (US) +1 913-298-1145 PIN: 771 044 589#

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The **consultation period** for this policy will **end on Monday, 7th June** at which point we will then consider as a school any feedback that has been given and finalise this policy.

Shortly after we will then begin teaching the 'Changing Me' lessons in school. You will all receive a letter prior to this to inform you of when this teaching will begin and what content is being covered. This letter will also inform you about your right to withdraw your child from some aspects of this work and how to go about this should you wish to do so. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from non-statutory sex education element in primary schools.

At St Margaret's Academy we have defined sex education as 'human reproduction' and this is taught in Year 5 and Year 6 only. We hope you will be in agreement with us that this work is vitally important for your children, that it needs to be done age-appropriately and that the Jigsaw Programme gives us a secure framework in which to do this. If you are feeling at all concerned we do as always want to work in partnership with you, and would encourage you to come and share these concerns with us.

We will be hosting an **online Google Meet session** for **parents of Year 5 and Year 6 children only** where you will be able to view any **resources and materials** we will be using to teach your child about human reproduction. This will be held just after the draft policy Q&A session **on Wednesday, 9th June at 6.30pm**. Please use the above link to join the session at 6.30pm. Teachers from Year 5 and Year 6 will join the meeting so you can ask any questions.

We hope you, like us, will see the materials in Jigsaw as educationally sound and beneficial to our children, helping to safeguard them, and we will look forward to sharing them with you, receiving your feedback and answering any questions you may have.

All the documents related to this can be found on our school website under 'Curriculum Information' – 'Relationships, Sex and Health Education Information'. Quick link here:

https://www.stmargaretstorbay.org.uk/website/relationships_sex_and_health_education_information/558866

We thank you for your support

Leanna Russell (PSHE Leader)

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