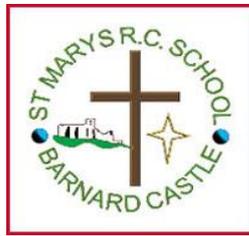


Headteacher
Mrs Lesley Box
School No. 3461
Tel: 01833 637029/695845
e-mail:



St. Mary's R.C. School
Birch Road
Barnard Castle
Co. Durham
DL12 8JR

barnardcastlemary@durhamlearning.net

Dear Parents and Carers,

From September 2020, Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) was originally planned to become statutory in all Secondary schools in England and Relationship Education became statutory in all Primary Schools in England. Due to the pandemic and disruption to schools, we are now being asked to ensure the curriculum and policy for Relationship and Sex Education is in place for September 2021. There are two schemes approved and recommended by the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle to support the delivery of Relationship and Sex Education. St Mary's will be using a developmental programme for children across the primary years called 'A Journey in Love.' This revised resource is intended to support teachers and parents in Catholic schools to enable a holistic growth in love of children. The themes explored across school are:

Early Years: The wonder of being special and unique

Year One: We meet God's love in our family

Year Two: We meet God's love in the community

Year Three: How we live in love

Year Four: God loves us in our differences

Year Five: God loves us in our changing and developing

Year Six: The wonder of God's love in creating new life

The programme is recommended for the teaching of Relationship and Sex Education because it is compiled specifically to present a Catholic vision. The above themes in each year group each explore and develop an aspect of love, encouraging young people to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's creative love.

Whilst the programme presents Church teaching which is expected in Catholic schools, it is sensitive to the fact that not all children are from the same background or family setting- this is something I would hope both parents and children recognise as something we accept and acknowledge as part of our everyday ethos here at St Mary's.

RSE plays a vital role in keeping our children safe however we recognise that as parents you are the primary educators of your child/children and therefore maintain the right to be able to deliver highly sensitive topics yourselves and withdraw your child from the sex education sessions if you wish. School will always give notice of when we plan to deliver these sessions and have a withdrawal process in place for any parents wishing to withdraw.

If you would like to attend a Teams meeting with both Mrs Porter and I to discuss RSE at St Mary's then please do email/ Weduc message Mrs Sedgewick and we will send out an invite via email.

The Teams meeting will be held on **Tuesday 6th July at 5pm**. It will be an opportunity for us as a school to share further information around the curriculum and also to have that dialogue with each other/ other parents to answer any questions you may have. The RSA policy and framework will also be made available on the school website.

Thank you, as always for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs L.A. Box

