



Dear Parents,

At St. Robert Bellarmine, we have reviewed our programme and policy for RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education). We are writing to all our parents to share our new policy and programme of study.

All schools have a responsibility to promote pupil wellbeing and prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

"This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you".

John 15:12

At St. Robert Bellarmine, we have tried to ensure that the RSHE curriculum is sensitive to the range of different family circumstances, values and beliefs which are found within our school. Through extensive discussion and training, we have tried to provide an RSE programme which is relevant and accessible to all of our children. We hope the programme supports pupils in learning about different backgrounds, faiths, cultures and about the opposite sex; one that is underpinned by the promotion of respect for all members of our diverse society.

The RSE programme of study will be delivered in a series of three sessions across the whole of our school during the academic year (from Nursery to Year 6).

'A Journey in Love' is a resource that is the recommended programme of study by Liverpool Archdiocese for Catholic schools for Relationship, Sex and Health Education. It has been written as a progressive scheme of work for all individual year groups that supports the Religious Education, RSHE and the Science curriculum already taught, within a primary school. The programme has, as its foundation, the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God and as a consequence, gender and sexuality are God's gift and reflect God's beauty. Each stage of growth is delivered through a series of suggested, progressive and developmental tasks and activities. Reflections will focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development. As children progress through school, they will discover more and more about themselves and the wider world.

Central to our work in school is learning about our faith, including understanding ourselves, our position in our community and how we develop as human beings. This is how 'A Journey in Love' fits in to our school curriculum. The scheme permeates through all levels of learning at St. Robert Bellarmine. It focuses on friendship, family, community, relationships and spirituality, a guide to the children's development as young Catholics.

As you would expect, not all issues related to personal development are covered by the end of Year 6. The content is age and stage appropriate and is taught with sensitivity, taking into account the children's level of maturity in regard to the delivery of the sessions. As with all aspects of learning, children are naturally curious, and many will have specific questions related to their sessions. Opportunities to discuss questions form part of the sessions and, again, these are treated with care and understanding.

The RSE programme will be delivered by your child's class teacher.

We do hope that all children will participate in the RSE programme, however, parents do have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the RSE sessions that do not form part of the statutory National Curriculum. If you wish to withdraw your child from the programme, please indicate this on the reply slip provided and return to school.

If you would like to view a sample of the presentations from the new RSE programme, please have a look at our school website where you will see an outline of what is covered in each year group. You are also welcome to request a sample of the lesson materials from your child's class teacher.

We do hope that you will feel happy with our new RSE programme at St. Robert Bellarmine. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself for any further information. Thank you,

H. Durnin

RE Subject Lead

PLEASE ONLY RETURN IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO TAKE PART IN THE RSHE PROGRAMME

I do not want my child _____ in Year _____ to take part in the RSE programme. I understand that my child will work in a different classroom when the sessions are taking place.

Reason

Signed: _____

Date_____