

16th March 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

Updates to our Life Learning (PSHE) & Sex & Relationship Education Programme at Werneth School

You will no doubt be aware of a great deal of national publicity over the last few months surrounding the whole area of **Sex and Relationship Education** nationally. It is a hot topic, and news in some schools because they have tended to gloss over it. At Werneth, this isn't news to us! It is an area that has always been part of our school curriculum, as we aim to provide appropriate information to our students in order to help them better understand the complexities of this area of young people's lives.

The aim of this letter is to keep you up-to-date as parents of the steps that we take in school to cover this important part of the curriculum.

We believe that promoting the health and well-being of our pupils is an important part of their overall education. We do this as part of fortnightly timetabled **Life Learning** lessons (Personal, Social and Health Education). This looks at many topics including all kinds of relationships, physical / emotional health and living in the wider world. The aim of the Life Learning curriculum is to help our pupils make safe and informed decisions during their school years and beyond. It is something that Mr Conroy introduced as a core subject at Werneth in 2016, and has been operating successfully within school since that time. Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is an important part of the Life Learning course and there are some statutory changes coming into effect in September 2020 that we, as a school, would like to make you aware of.

In this school, we ensure that a dedicated team of teachers teach the Life Learning course, so you can always be assured that content is being delivered sensitively. We will be teaching lessons about SRE throughout the school year which will include important topics to protect students' lives including key topics such as *puberty; relationships and communication skills; pregnancy; contraceptives; prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; prevention of sexual abuse; FGM; body image; sexting and social media; pornography; consent; gender identify; LGBTQ+ education.*

During the lessons, pupils will be able to ask questions. These will always be answered factually and in an age appropriate manner. Each pupil's privacy will be respected, and no one will be asked to reveal personal information. Parts of SRE are compulsory and part of the national curriculum for Personal Social Health Education.

Werneth School, Harrytown, Romiley, Stockport SK6 3BX

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These topics contain appropriate educational resources and approaches, with features of the lessons including:

- appropriate and educational sexual images in social media and other media.
- a place to discuss pressures, check facts and dispel myths. We are mindful that children will discuss such issues with each other outside the classroom – so, rather than hear about the content second-hand, we hope all children will have the opportunity to take part in our carefully planned lessons.

Many parents and parent-related organisations support good quality SRE in school. Of course, parents are the most important educators of young people in personal issues and most welcome the support that school can offer to supplement their home teaching. You may find that your child starts asking questions about the topic at home, or you might want to take the opportunity to talk to your child about issues before the work is covered in school. If you have any queries about the content of the programme or resources used, please do not hesitate in contacting me at school.

An overview of the Life Learning curriculum which outlines what your child will experience in these lessons during their time at Werneth can be found on our school website.

All teaching materials used are also available for you to browse through should you so wish.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Conroy
Headteacher

Mrs N Smith-O'Connell
Subject Co-ordinator of Life Learning

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