

Thursday 11th May 2017

Relationships and Sexuality Education: Year 7 Students

Dear Parents / Carers,

As a Catholic School, our aim is to help young people appreciate their sexuality and explore the concept of moral responsibilities. We are very aware that we have been entrusted by the Catholic Church to provide for your son / daughter every opportunity to study and understand the depth of being human; how we develop physically, spiritually and emotionally, and that as parents / carers you are the first teachers of your children.

Please find attached an outline of the RSE materials which will be covered in Year 7 Religious Education and Science lessons during this term and also an outline of how these issues will be covered in later school years. Copies of the booklets and text books used and the School RSE Policy are available in the school reception should you wish to see them.

We acknowledge the right of parents / carers to withdraw their children from those aspects of the RSE programme not included in the National Curriculum Science (The Education Act 1993). If a parent or carer should desire to exercise the right of withdrawal the school management will facilitate this. In consultation with the parents / carers, alternative arrangements will be made to accommodate your child whilst the lesson is being taught.

If you would like to talk to myself, Miss Fitzsimmons, the Leader of Learning in Religious Studies, or Mrs Baker, the KS3 Leader of Learning in Science, we would be very happy to discuss the materials further with you.

Yours sincerely,

S. Keogh
Deputy Headteacher

H. Fitzsimmons
Leader of Learning, R.S.

L. Baker
Head of KS3 Science

SCIENCE

The Year 7 *Reproduction* course is taught during the Pentecost Term when teachers and learners have had time to build relationships so that the learners will have confidence in their teacher. The Science department and RE department work together to ensure that related material is covered at a similar time. This enables the Science teacher to refer questions to the RE teacher if necessary.

The Science course is based on the National Curriculum and focuses on the following concepts:

- The structure of the reproductive system and the function of the organs.
- The nature of the sex cells, relating their functions to their structure.
- The process of fertilisation.
- The development of the foetus.
- Child development and the changes during puberty.

The department aims to discuss these concepts openly, offering learners the opportunity to ask questions. Questions that refer to relationships and the Catholic Ethos may be discussed briefly if the teacher feels comfortable doing so. Generally they will be referred to the RE specialist. Many questions relate to the changes at puberty and we strive to reassure learners that individuals develop at different rates so that if they are a little ahead or behind their friends it is not unusual.

Throughout the topic the context is the scientific process and the language used is technical.

At GCSE learners follow the AQA Science course. The first unit in Biology includes genetics. Later content for GCSE Science includes genetic testing of a developing foetus, embryo selection technique is explained and again discussion of the ethics behind it explored. Embryonic and adult stem cells are covered with further debate following. Further content in GCSE Biology looks at sexually transmitted diseases.

Throughout the teaching of these topics information regarding Catholic beliefs are shared with the learners.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sexual Relationship Education

KS3

Year 7 (Pentecost Term)

This is delivered at the same time as Reproduction is being delivered by Science. RE staff are asked to liaise with their classes' science teacher to establish time of delivery.

Topics covered

Creation

God as the creator of life

Humans made in God's image and likeness

Uniqueness of the Individual

Growing up – changes and independence

Yr 9

Follow up lessons exploring RSE themes from the 'Ten Ten Theatre' performance of 'Chased' and the Challenge Team Visit

Love and relationships

Different meaning of the word love

KS4 – Yrs 10 & 11

As part of the **GCSE** specifications

Personal relationships

Love as a basis of Christian living

Friendship and love

Sexual relationship before marriage

Sacrament of marriage (Church teaching, preparation, Ceremony and commitment)

The family and roles within family

Value of the individual

Marital problems and divorce

Church teaching on remarriage

Annulment