



RSE parent consultation

May 2021



A message from Mrs Large



We have read all of your responses to our survey and taken them on board. Where there have been specific questions related to your own children, these will be followed up separately with you.

The majority of survey responses were positive and supportive of our draft curriculum. The concerns or queries that were raised were all broadly similar and were around three areas: the age appropriateness of relationships education, knowing exactly what will be taught and when and that these subjects are best discussed at home.

The remainder of this presentation will go in to these questions and detail what we are doing to meet your concerns.

You said... you feel the children may be too young to learn about relationships.



Our response:

- Much of the relationships curriculum focusses around friendships, characteristics of healthy relationships and personal responsibility.
- When body parts are discussed in Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2, this is in the context of knowing the correct terminology so the children are able to precisely explain if they're in any pain or discomfort. We will also discuss what body parts are private and how to respect the privacy of others.
- Puberty will be discussed in Years 5 and 6 and an optional lesson on puberty will be available for girls in Year 4 with the school nurse. We have chosen these year groups because some children will begin puberty at this age.
- Sex (conception) will not be taught until Year 6. These lessons will only support the compulsory teaching from the Science curriculum and will not go in to any further detail than that already taught in Science.

You said... you were unsure of the curriculum content for each year group.



Our response:

- Alongside our survey, we sent a curriculum overview containing the topics that will be covered in each year group. We also sent a more detailed breakdown of each lesson that will be taught. These can still be found on the Parent app.
- Before each class covers their yearly Relationships unit, a letter will be sent to you from the class teacher providing the same information, as well as a vocabulary list, so you can know precisely what terms will be used in lessons.

You said... these subjects are best discussed at home.



Our response:

- We agree that these subjects should be discussed at home at an age-appropriate level. From topics like friendships, feelings and respecting others, we want our curriculum to help facilitate these discussions and to reinforce the positive messages children receive at home.
- More sensitive subjects are dealt with further up in the school as children's bodies will be starting to change. These discussions are healthy and talking about these topics at home is essential to children's understanding and wellbeing. We want to support you in that by teaching facts and emphasising that these subjects shouldn't feel embarrassing or uncomfortable.
- We also appreciate that some families want to discuss certain topics but find it difficult to. In the curriculum letters that you will receive from your child's class teacher, we will signpost to online resources for parents and we are happy to speak to you individually.

You said... I'm unsure if this will be in line with my beliefs.



Our response:

- We want families of all faiths and of none to feel comfortable with what the children will be taught in Relationships education. Where we discuss individual differences in gender or sexuality (in year groups further up in the school) we want to encourage the children to accept individual differences and to not accept discrimination of any shape or form.

A response from Rev. Nick Bundock:

"We believe in an inclusive Church – church which does not discriminate on any level, including: economic power, gender, gender identity, mental health, mental ability, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes, accepts and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

We did not do this because of political ideology or to accommodate prevailing cultural norms. We did it because we lost a gay teenager to suicide and the immense and painful realisation that our theological position had contributed to this unimaginable tragedy.

Since adopting a position of loving inclusion we have been inundated with LGBT+ Christians and families in all shapes and sizes seeking sanctuary in our church and we have been enriched by their presence and changed by their witness to the Christian faith. As the founder member of the St James and Emmanuel Academy Trust we fully endorse the respectful treatment of all human beings and family groups and encourage parents, carers and guardians to visit our new website, Church for Everyone <https://churchforeveryone.info> which articulates our values in a way that a few short sentences cannot convey.



Your involvement in our consultation has been greatly appreciated. Following your feedback, we will ensure that resources are available to you to support discussions at home and we are heartened by the constructive, supportive comments you submitted.

We hope that this addresses any concerns you may have but if you still have any questions or want to discuss anything further, please contact the school office and Mrs Large or Mr Roberts will be in touch.