

## **Relationships, Health and Sex Education – FAQ for Parents**

***Please see our ‘Letter to Parents’ and the school policy on the school website detailing an overview of our new Curriculum for RSE. These questions were formulated following a parent survey.***

### **How was this policy and programme planned?**

Following the statutory guidance change from the government which legally obliged schools to teach sex and relationships education, Our Lady of Compassion put together a working party. The working party was led by a member of staff with training in this area and consisted of parents, governors, staff and management. The working party worked together to ensure that the new curriculum created for RSE would give children the knowledge they needed, prepare for later life and continue to follow Catholic guidelines. A new platform was created by a Catholic service, and this was trialled in a local Catholic school. Following its success, it became the platform we would use here at Our Lady of Compassion. The programme was adapted by the working party to ensure that it met the needs of our pupils and gave our children the experience that they deserve.

### **Where can I access extra support about talking to my child about sensitive issues?**

Everything surrounding sensitive issues will be taught following the Life to the Full programme. This follows an entirely Catholic approach towards any issues that may come up. A parent log-in can be found on the letter to the parents to access the parent portal for Life to the Full, where you will find short modules that discuss supporting your child with their RSE learning. Your child’s class teacher will also be happy to have a conversation with you to discuss any particular issues.

### **How do I know what my child will be taught each year?**

At the beginning of every new year, we hold a ‘working together meeting’ where the year ahead is outlined and discussed with you all. As part of this, a pack is produced with key information. Each year group will receive information in this about what exactly will be taught and when. Information on the website will allow you to see how our teachings on sex education graduate throughout your child’s time with us.

### **As a Catholic School, how are you adhering to Catholic guidelines?**

Following the Catholic guidelines and values is of huge importance to us. We are therefore using a programme ‘Life to the Full’ that has been approved by the Catholic Education Service. Children are taught everything that they need to know, following the statutory guidance from the government but also ensuring that the Catholic values are at

the centre of everything. Children will learn that all of our relationship and sex sessions are part of God's plan. Please log in to the Life to the Full parent portal for more information (log in details available on the parent letter).

### **Why is puberty being taught in Year 4?**

Catholic guidelines support the teaching of puberty in Year 4. Whilst not all children will be getting to the stage of puberty at this time, it is important that they know what is going to happen to them and what may be already happening to their peers around them. These sessions will still be age-appropriate and will prepare children for the changes that they will all inevitably face.

### **Can I withdraw my child from any of these sessions?**

We have a legal obligation to ensure every child access their relationship and sex education. The only session that can children can be withdrawn from is the lesson on conception in the summer term of Year 6. You will need to arrange to meet with a member of the senior leadership team to discuss this.