

## Parental Consultation over changes to Relationships Education

(December 2023 – January 2024)

### **Q: Why are we proposing a change?**

**A:** When we introduced 'Life to the Full' from Ten:Ten Resources as our Relationships Education Scheme in September 2020, we opted to teach the units 'What is Puberty?' and 'Changing Bodies' in Year 6. We now feel that it would be more appropriate to teach one of these units in Year 4 and the other one in Year 5 and introduce a new unit in Year 6. The Diocese of Salford endorsed publisher of our Relationships Education Scheme (Ten:Ten Resources) already recommends that 'What is Puberty?' and 'Changing Bodies' are introduced from Year 4 onwards.

### **Q: Which units are being moved and what is the new unit that is being introduced?**

**A:** We will move 'What is Puberty?' to Year 4 so that children begin to develop a basic understanding of what puberty is. We will also move 'Changing Bodies' to Y5 to build on previous learning in Year 4. We will then introduce 'Male/Female Discussion Groups' to Year 6 (click on the link below to see the content of this new unit), to revisit learning about how bodies change and to address some common questions which boys and girls may have by Year 6.

### **Q: When will the changes be introduced?**

These changes will not come into place before the start of Spring 2 (late February) 2024, following a full consultation with governors, staff and parents of St Richard's.

### **Q: What will stay the same?**

No other units in the scheme will be affected. The two units which are moving are currently delivered in single-sex groups to avoid embarrassment/discomfort and they will continue to be delivered in this way. The new unit will also be delivered in this way.

### **Q: Where can I see the units being discussed?**

'What is Puberty?' And 'Changing Bodies' are currently available to view on the Year 6 Long Term Plan (Autumn 2) on the school website (go to 'Key Information' then click on 'Curriculum 2023-24')

The new unit which will be introduced to Year 6 is viewable below:

[Male and Female Discussion Groups – Session Notes](#)

### **Q: Are you going to start teaching sex education at St Richard's?**

**A:** We do **not** teach sex education as part of Relationships Education at St Richard's and this will continue to be the case. As the following extract from our current Relationships Education Policy (available on the school website) states:

*'We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Parents continue to have the right to withdraw their children from Sex Education except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science orders. However, at St Richard's, we will not be teaching pupils about the act of procreation through sexual intercourse. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education.'*

### **Q: How can I express my opinion on the changes?**

Having carefully read all the information above, as well as the unit overviews mentioned parents are invited to make written comments by emailing [comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:comments@st-richards.manchester.sch.uk) by the closing date of 4pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Many thanks in advance.