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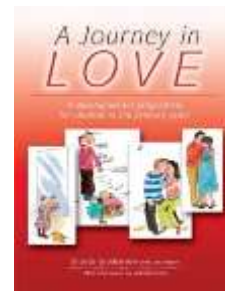


**THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
The Catholic Diocese of Northampton

Monday, 03 June 2019 *“Following Jesus, The Good Shepherd, in all we say and do”*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Next term as part of our PSHE & R.E. Curriculum we will be teaching the children ‘Relationships and Sex Education’. We will be using a resource with the children called ‘*A Journey in Love*’ which was created by Sister Jude Groden. It is the recommended programme of study for Catholic schools for Sex and Relationship Education, and has been written as a progressive scheme of work that supports the Religious Education, PSHE and Science curricula taught within the school.



‘*A Journey in Love*’ has at its foundation the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and as a consequence, gender and sexuality are God’s gift, reflect God’s beauty and share in the divine creativity.

Throughout ‘*A Journey In Love*,’ an aspect of the mystery of love is focussed upon in each group. Children and young people are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God’s creative love. This is reflected in each stage of a person’s growth in the Primary Years through a series of tasks, activities and reflections which focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

As with all aspects of learning, children are naturally curious and many will have questions related to their lessons. Opportunities to discuss questions form part of the lessons and again these are treated with care and understanding.

‘*A Journey In Love*’ highlights the importance of parental input and children will be told to discuss their lessons at home. We ask that if parents feel that their child may not be quite ready for the content within the programme, they should make an appointment with Mrs Robinson to discuss their thoughts on the matter.

As a parent, you have the right to withdraw your child from Sex Education at any time if you wish to do so. However, from September 2020 Relationships Education will be a statutory subject, so from then onwards parents will be unable to withdraw their children from Relationships Education.

We will be holding a meeting with parents/carers to explain briefly what is involved in each year group and what will be covered. It will be also an opportunity to ask any questions involving the programme.

This meeting will be held on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 6pm**. It will be for adults only as we will be discussing what your children will be taught and some of the material that will be taught to Year 6 will not be suitable yet for younger children.

Please indicate below if you will be attending the meeting.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs J Robinson  
Interim Head Teacher

Mrs M Hawkes  
Interim Assistant Head & R.E. Lead

I will be attending the Relationships and Sex Education parents meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 6pm.

My child is .....Class.....

Number of adults attending .....



*St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Academies Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales under company registration number 09980467 at registered address The Trust Office, c/o Thomas Becket Catholic School, Becket Way, Kettering Road North, Northampton, Northants, NN3 6HT. The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School is a business name of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Academies Trust.*

## Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

- To encourage pupils' growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God
  - To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships
- To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- To develop pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
  - To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships
    - To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
  - To ensure that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed.
    - To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
    - To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To prepare pupils to play an active role as citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be citizens of the Kingdom/reign of God.

## Themes explored in each year group:

Nursery - Wonder at God's Love

Reception - God loves each of us in our uniqueness

Year One - We meet God's love in our family

Year Two - We meet God's love in the community

Year Three - How we live in love

Year Four - God loves us in our differences

Year Five - God loves me in my changing and development

Year Six - The wonder of God's love in creating new life

