



Thursday 12th January 2017

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am writing to inform you about the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) that your son/daughter will receive during Year 8 Religious Education this term.

We are using, as a basis for our teaching in RSE, material from *Love and Sex Matters*, a resource that has been produced by Salisbury Diocese with church schools in mind. It aims to give children and young people a safe environment within which they can explore different perspectives on relationships and sex.

The lessons present children with a variety of religious and non-religious viewpoints to allow them to make more considered decisions for themselves as they progress through adolescence. The resources also allow students to assess critically the messages they receive from the media and advertising. They encourage students to develop language suitable to discuss these often complex subjects. The resources place a strong emphasis on the fact that healthy relationships are based upon people valuing both themselves, and other people. Themes explored include: the role of the media in shaping sexuality; what is love?; why wait to have sex?; the emotional and spiritual aspects of sex; contraception, including abstinence; sexually transmitted infections; and an opportunity to reflect on how love and commitment can benefit the individual and the community, based on a Christian perspective.

Should you wish to discuss the programme in more detail or consider withdrawing your son or daughter from some of these lessons do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Farrow

RE Subject Leader