



# ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Head Teachers: Mrs Laura Cutts NPQH & Mrs Sarah Heaney NPQH

9th May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Information about term 6's Personal, Social, Health Education, which includes Relationships and Changing Me**

At St Stephen's Junior School we use Jigsaw as our scheme of work to teach PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education). The programme consists of 6 half-term units, each with 6 lessons. We call these Jigsaw 'Puzzles'. (Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me).

In the second half of the Summer Term. we will be teaching the 'Changing Me' Puzzle. This helps children learn to cope positively with all sorts of change. In Key Stage 2 they will learn about puberty in this Puzzle.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the statutory requirements placed on schools, and what we plan to teach when for this topic in PSHE this term.

The government statutory guidance gives parents the right to request to withdraw their child from Sex Education, and this letter explains more about what Sex Education is and how you can find out more about this if you wish to.

### **Health, Relationship and Sex Education**

Health and Relationship Education is statutory in all primary schools, and it is recommended that all primary schools have a Sex Education programme that is tailored to the age of the pupils.

In Key Stage 2, there is a particular focus on the Health Education element of puberty in (including menstruation) and the changes that happen inside and outside the body. This is taught in a way that helps pupils feel prepared for the main changes that happen before puberty starts, and to encourage them to talk to an adult at home or at school if they have any questions.

At St Stephen's Junior School, we define 'Sex Education' to mean learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal

identity. Sex Education is part of our PSHE/RSE curriculum and we teach it through the Jigsaw 'Changing Me' topic.

The Jigsaw scheme says that it is best practice for children to be taught RSE in mixed groups, as it is important for boys and girls to know about the changes that will be ahead during puberty for both groups.

### **The right to withdraw**

As parents you have the right to withdraw your child from the non-statutory elements of our teaching. These will be the lessons on human reproduction (please refer to the contents table below for the exact lessons). You are unable to withdraw your child from any lessons within Relationship or Health Education (this includes puberty and menstruation). If you do wish to withdraw your child from the human reproduction lessons, please fill in the attached form and return it to the school office so we can discuss the implications of withdrawing.

### **What will my child be taught about puberty and human reproduction?**

The Jigsaw unit 'Changing Me' is taught in the Summer Term and contains 6 pieces (lessons). Each year group will be taught appropriate to their age and developmental stage. This content will be taught by the class/year teachers. We will not teach beyond the remit of the year group.

Each class will have a box for anonymous questions that come up in our 'Changing Me' lessons. This technique allows the teacher to support any children who have concerns, and also gives 'thinking time' so that, if appropriate, the children's questions can be answered age-appropriately in the next lesson. If questions are asked that the teacher feels are inappropriate or are beyond the content for that year group, the teacher may ask the child to ask their parent/carer, or the teacher may acknowledge the question and explain that we will learn about that aspect at another time.

The table below only covers the lessons (pieces) that relate to life cycles, the human body, puberty and human reproduction. The lessons (pieces) that parents are able to withdraw their children from are highlighted in red font.

<b>School Year group</b>	<b>Piece (lesson) Number and Name</b>	<b>Learning Intentions relating to Puberty and Human Reproduction</b>
<b>Ages 7-8 Year 3</b>	Piece 1 How Babies Grow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand that in animals and humans lots of changes happen from birth to fully grown, and that usually it is the female who has the baby</li> <li>• express how they feel when they see babies or baby animals</li> </ul>
	Piece 2 Babies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand how babies grow and develop in the mother's uterus and understand what a baby needs to live and grow (New vocabulary - uterus /womb)</li> <li>• express how they might feel if they had a new baby in their family</li> </ul>
	Piece 3 Outside Body Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand that boys' and girls' bodies need to change so that when they grow up their bodies can make babies</li> <li>• identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the outside during this growing up process (introduce term puberty)</li> </ul>
	Piece 4 Inside Body Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the inside during the growing up process and why these changes are necessary so that their bodies can make babies when they grow up (introduce vocab sperm, ovaries, egg, Ovum/ Ova, womb/uterus, vagina and period)</li> <li>• recognise how they feel about these changes happening to them and how to cope with these feelings</li> </ul> <p><b>Note - this lesson briefly introduces the term 'period' and explains what a period is in simple terms.</b></p> <p><b>This lesson does not attempt any explanation of how the sperm and egg come together. If a child asks the question we will explain that the male and female decide when this happens and we will learn more about it at another time.</b></p>

**We are eager to work in partnership with parents**

Please be aware that your child may ask you questions on what they have learnt.

There is also the Usborne series of growing up books

(<https://usborne.com/gb/books/series/growing-up>) that you might find useful.

We hope that the information we have provided is useful in understanding what your child will be learning this term.

If you have any further questions or would like to view materials that will be used to teach these lessons, please contact your child's teacher or me via the office.

Yours faithfully  
Mr Parkin  
PSHE / RSE Lead

Name of child		Class	
Name of parent/carer		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL**

Agreed actions from discussion with parents/carers	