



ST. STEPHEN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

5th June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Information about PSHE, which includes Relationships and Sex Education

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'. This term, we will be teaching the 'Changing Me' Puzzle. This helps children learn to cope positively with all sorts of change, including the transition to year 5.

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

The government statutory guidance gives parents the right to request to withdraw their child from Sex Education, and there will be one lesson this term (taught in week 5) to which this will apply.

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.

Throughout 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 before puberty starts, and to encourage them to talk to an adult at home or at school if they have any questions.

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.

Children 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 right to withdraw

As parents, you have the right to withdraw your child from the non-statutory elements of our teaching. In year 4, this applies to the lesson on human reproduction, which will take place in week 5 of this term (please refer to the contents table below). You are unable to withdraw your child from any lessons within Relationship or Health Education (this includes puberty and menstruation) but we do know that children are likely to come home with more questions and so it is important that you are aware of when they are taking place.

School Year group	Piece (lesson) Number and Name	Learning Intentions relating to Puberty and Human Reproduction
Ages 8-9 Year 4	Piece 1 Unique Me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand that some of my personal characteristics have come from my birth parents and that this happens because I am made from the joining of their egg and sperm.
	Piece 5 Having A Baby Parents have the right to withdraw children from this session as it is classed as human reproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> correctly label the internal and external parts of male and female bodies that are necessary for making a baby and in simple terms how this happens. understand that having a baby is a personal choice and express how they feel about having children when they are adults. Note: This is a simple introduction to sexual intercourse with the teacher using a script which includes 'an especially close and loving embrace which allows the sperm to be released through the penis into the vagina.'

	Piece 6 Girls and Puberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• describe how a girl's body changes in order for her to be able to have babies when she is an adult, and that menstruation (having periods) is a natural part of this.• know that they have strategies to help me cope with the physical and emotional changes they will experience during puberty.• Note - teachers will also recap the puberty learning for both girls and boys from year 3 and revisit some of the content if required.
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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.

If you do choose to withdraw your child from the human reproduction lesson, please fill in the attached form and return it to the school office so we can discuss the implications of withdrawing.

Kind regards,

Mr Parkin

PSHE / RSE Lead

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS

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	