Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 1SU
Telephone: 01923 901179
Email: admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk

8.3.24

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Subject: Consultation on Relationship and Sex Education including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. We, at Sacred Heart, believe in fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all our pupils. As part of our commitment to ensuring the well-being and protection of our pupils, we are writing to inform you about an important matter that requires your attention.

The Bishop's Directive of England and Wales has requested that all Catholic Primary Schools review their RSE curriculum to ensure that Sex Education and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) are being taught. FGM is a harmful practice that violates the rights of girls and women, and it is essential that we address this issue collectively as a community. Please note that Sex Education will continue to be taught in Year 6 after seeking consent from parents.

The purpose of this consultation is to inform parents about our Relationships and Sex Education curriculum and also to raise awareness about FGM, its consequences, and the steps we can take to prevent it. By engaging in this process, we aim to equip our pupils, staff, and parents with the knowledge and understanding necessary to identify and respond to any potential risks associated with FGM.

We understand that discussing such sensitive topics can be challenging, but it is crucial that we work together to protect our children from harm. The consultation will involve various activities, including workshops, presentations, and open discussions, all of which will be age-appropriate and conducted with the utmost sensitivity.

We assure you that the information shared during the consultation will be handled with the strictest confidentiality, and any concerns or questions you may have will be addressed in a supportive and non-judgmental manner. Our primary goal is to create a safe space for dialogue and education, ensuring that our pupils are equipped with the necessary tools to make informed decisions and protect themselves.

Starting from the Foundation Stage up until Year 4, parents will be taught the NSPCC method, known as the 'Pants' method. This method focuses on teaching pupils that their private areas are private and that their body belongs to them. As pupils progress to Year 5 and Year 6, they will further explore different types of abuse, fostering awareness and understanding. In Year 6, the pupils receive lessons on Relationships and Sex Education and also the topic of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) will be discussed, providing pupils with important knowledge and promoting a safe and

informed environment. Parents are informed when this will take place.

We kindly request your active participation in this consultation process. Your input, insights, and suggestions are invaluable in shaping our approach to addressing FGM within our school community. Together, we can make a significant impact in safeguarding our children and promoting a culture of respect and understanding.

Please click on the consultation link below for further information about our RSE and PSHE Curriculum:

https://sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/pshe-citizenship/

Here you will find a copy of our policy and our updated proposed RSE and PSHE teaching documents. We would like to have your feedback on our approach and particularly on the key decisions that we need to take regarding the teaching of certain topics. If you have any comments on the proposed curriculum, and the wider policy you can email these to: admin@sacredheart682.herts.sch.uk The deadline for responding to the consultation is 7.3.24.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in our collective efforts to ensure the well-being and safety of our pupils. Should you have any immediate concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Smith