

# St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



17 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you already know, in the academic year 2020/21, Relationships, Sex and Health Education will become statutory in all secondary schools in England. This new subject builds on the non-statutory lessons we have previously taught in RSE. As part of our school's wider Personal, Social and Health Education programme, your child will soon receive lessons on relationships, sex and health education.

As a Catholic school, our mission is to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all of our pupils. The education of children in human sexuality is an important, precious and privileged responsibility. The Church teaches us that this is very much a partnership with parents, in which parents are the 'first educators' of their children on these matters; ultimately, you confer on us the right to co-educate your children with you. The purpose of the upcoming curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.

Following a review of our PSHE/RSHE curriculum and our consultation last year we will be following the 'Life to the Full' programme by Ten Ten Resources. Ten Ten is an award-winning Catholic educational organisation that is well-respected and very experienced in this field of work.

Through their programme, Ten Ten understand the foundational role that parents have in educating and nurturing their children on these matters. Within the programme, they have built in resources which will not only keep you informed about what is being taught in school, but will also give you the opportunity to engage your children in discussion and activity to support the learning being undertaken in school. In order for you to do this you can view the resources here <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/online-parent-portal-secondary/> This provides an overview of the content and how you can develop these discussions further at home if you wish.

You will need the following login credentials for our school:

Username: st-matthews-se3

Password: primary-ford

You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSHE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. However, we are confident you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the RSHE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all of our pupils. We are looking forward to sharing further information in due course.

You are welcome to contact me to discuss the programme further.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr A Young**  
Deputy Headteacher

**Mrs S Guest**  
Deputy Headteacher

: 0208 853 6250 : [info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk) : [www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk) : @stmattacad

The St Matthew Academy Limited. A company limited by guarantee whose registered office is situated at St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London, SE3 0XX  
Registered in England no 5144640 Vat registration no 117 5465 13

Successful, confident learners High expectations, outstanding achievements Inclusive, caring, Catholic community Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition Excellence for all