

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware from our consultation with you earlier this year regarding the Relationship and Health Education (RHE) scheme we follow at St Anthony's the children learn about a wide range of areas in their RHE lessons. These lessons aim to prepare them for the physical and emotional changes of growing up; to give them the knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy choices; to build their confidence and skills to deal with situations they may encounter; to help them to stay safe and know where and how to ask for help if needed all within a Catholic Teaching framework which the Ten Ten 'Life to the Full' scheme provides.

Within these areas the children learn about different forms of abuse starting from a very general 'Privates are Private' message in EYFS and KS1 to more specific information in KS2. As part of this topic primary schools are now being encouraged to teach children about female genital mutilation (FGM) in order to identify and protect girls at risk earlier and empower the next generation to speak out about the issue.

As the teaching of FGM is optional in a primary setting we are duty bound to consult with you regarding how this content is covered at St Anthony's; please see the attached PowerPoint which explains in detail how this content will be taught.

We believe that this topic is an important addition to our RHE programme. If you have concerns or would like to discuss the matter further, please make an appointment to meet with the Headteacher Elaine Harrold or myself.

Kind regards

John McGinn

RHE Co-ordinator