



Headteacher – Mrs S Brereton
St Wilfrid's C. E. Primary School
Mabel Street
Newton Heath
M40 1GB

Tel:0161 681 1385

Fax:0161 681 1318

Email: admin@st-wilfrids.manchester.sch.uk

Website: www.stwilfridsceprimary.co.uk

2nd November 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

From the 2020-21 academic year, the government made it statutory for primary schools to teach all children 'Relationships Education'. Taken directly from the government website, this includes, *'teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.*

This starts with pupils being taught about what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them. From the beginning of primary school, building on early education, pupils should be taught how to take turns, how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect, the importance of honesty and truthfulness, permission seeking and giving, and the concept of personal privacy.

Establishing personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact – these are the forerunners of teaching about consent, which takes place at secondary.

Respect for others should be taught in an age-appropriate way, in terms of understanding one's own and others' boundaries in play, in negotiations about space, toys, books, resources and so on.

The principles of positive relationships also apply online especially as, by the end of primary school, many children will already be using the internet. When teaching relationships content, teachers should address online safety and appropriate behaviour in a way that is relevant to pupils' lives. Teachers should include content on how information and data is shared and used in all contexts, including online; for example, sharing pictures, understanding that many websites are businesses and how sites may use information provided by users in ways they might not expect.

Relationships Education also creates an opportunity to enable pupils to be taught about positive emotional and mental wellbeing, including how friendships can support mental wellbeing.'

At St. Wilfrid's, we are following a PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education) programme called 'My Life', which cleverly and creatively covers a range of topic areas linked to relationships, well-being and living in the wider world. Sample coverage includes 'money matters', 'feeling included', 'falling out and making up' and 'mental and emotional health'. I'm sure you'll agree that dedicated time to PSHE, and particularly support with mental health, are vital at a time when our children are living in such an uncertain world.

It is very important to note that our approach is wholly age-appropriate and does not expose children to anything beyond their age-range and capability to comprehend. The full overview is available for you to access on our school website on the PSHE curriculum tab.

In preparation for the high school curriculum and pre-empting wider exposure to topics in social media, the year 6 units cover an awareness of drugs and alcohol, mental and emotional health, sustainable development, e-safety and social media, anti-social behaviour and sex education.



Headteacher – Mrs S Brereton
St Wilfrid's C. E. Primary School
Mabel Street
Newton Heath
M40 1GB

Tel:0161 681 1385

Fax:0161 681 1318

Email: admin@st-wilfrids.manchester.sch.uk

Website: www.stwilfridsceprimary.co.uk

The sex education unit covers the concepts of love and attraction; consent and choice; conception (linking directly to the scientific units about the human body) and also family links, through genetics and the scientific stages of pregnancy. This content is covered very sensitively and thoughtfully, and if any year 6 parent wishes to discuss this further, please feel free to contact a member of staff.

Thank you so much for your continued support at such a challenging time,

Kind regards,

Mrs Brereton

