

ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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EDUCATION
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Midlothian



8TH February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION – PERSONAL SAFETY PROGRAMME P5-P7- 2023

Following the February break, Primaries 5, 6 and 7 will be taught a series of lessons as part of their sex and relationships education. Please refer to the attached leaflet detailing the areas covered and the resources used in school. You may of course prefer to have these conversations with your child ahead of it being taught in school, but please be aware that we will use the correct names for body parts etc and the lessons may prompt some questions for you at home.

CHANGE TO P5 PROGRAMME

This year we would like to bring the lessons about puberty – my changing body - down to P5 as many of the children, the girls especially, are experiencing puberty at an earlier age. How babies are conceived will still be taught at P6 and revisited as part of the P7 programme. If you have any concerns about this please speak to Mrs Laird after your parental consultation appointment.

Personal safety is taught throughout the year but has a specific focus in the summer term for P6 & P7 after the Easter holidays. These lessons will include being safe and respectful online.

SOME CONCERNS

We have been experiencing some issues with inappropriate messaging which has been abusive, discriminatory and threatening in nature on whats app and snapchat in particular. Whilst we cannot check your child's accounts, some messages have been printed off and sent into school for me to see. Please check your child's phone regularly and talk to them about safe and respectful use of all digital devices. School chromebooks are monitored via a system called LIGHTSPEED and I have received some alerts already for inappropriate searches and worrying message exchanges. Please be assured that these are all followed up and Mrs Macaulay and I share this responsibility. If you have not been contacted directly by us, then you do not need to worry about misuse of the chromebook, but please do regularly check other devices.

Thank you for your continued support.

Liz Laird
Headteacher