

Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ
Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: office@stmca.org.uk | www.stmca.org.uk | @StThomasMoreCA
Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

27th June 2023

Catholic Life and RSE

Dear Parents and Carers,

In accordance with our Mission statement, at St Thomas More we strive to secure a shared vision for all associated with our school community. This year, as always we are continuing to develop our spirituality and celebrated the values of Faith, Excellence and Respect in our students throughout the whole school community. Last year we had a number of successes in PSHE, including external visits, RSE days and PSHE extended forms. We were also recognised for our celebrating of the Catholic virtues within our school, exploring our vocations and showing love to our neighbour through community work, fundraising and retreat days to inspire our MAC community. We have lots of exciting and important events coming up during the remainder of this term, including rewards trips and PSHE Week, which will see visits from both the Road and Railway Safety team.

Our PSHE Week provides students with an excellent opportunity to reflect on the diverse community here at St. Thomas More and explore the importance of tolerance, dignity and love towards ourselves and others through our Catholic Social Teachings. The study of RSE is an integral part of the curriculum for all students in Years 7 to 13 and takes place within the theological, spiritual and moral context of the Roman Catholic tradition, whilst being taught within PSHE Lessons.

As you may be aware, the DFE confirmed that RSE is compulsory for all secondary schools from September 2020 and that this must include health education as well as teachings on LGBTQ+. As a Catholic and inclusive school, we have worked to establish a curriculum that meets all DFE guidance as well as those of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, using the lessons developed by **TenTen** entitled **“Life to the Full”**. We recognise that parents and carers are the principle and the most important educators of their children in all aspects of education including RSE. As a Catholic school, we support parents and the Church as the supporting vehicle by which the Church’s teaching on relationships, sex and family life is passed on.

In line with statutory guidance, parents have the right to withdraw their child from Sex Education but not Health or Relationship Education “up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn”, the school will make arrangements for the child to join RSE classes. All requests for withdrawal must be submitted in writing addressed to the Headteacher for action, **before December 1st 2023**.

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All lessons, resources and work will be dealt with sensitively and with compassion. However, as is the nature of RSE, issues connected to child protection might arise and they will be dealt with in accordance with our Safeguarding policy.

If you wish to view our Scheme of Learning or the resources used in RSE you can visit the schools website and PSHE overview at: [PSHE - St Thomas More Catholic Academy \(stmca.org.uk\)](http://PSHE - St Thomas More Catholic Academy (stmca.org.uk)) or Ten Ten Resources – Resources for Catholic / Christian schools

As a school we have high expectations of our students in approaching such topics and are looking forward to being able to help them to learn about such important topics within their PSHE lessons. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Stubbs (Designated Safeguarding Lead / SLT PSHE Lead) or Miss Broadhurst (PSHE Curriculum Lead).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Stubbs

Mrs J Stubbs
Assistant Headteacher

Miss E Broadhurst
PSHE Curriculum Lead

Miss G Murphy
Head of Religious Education