

## Thomas A'Becket Infant School

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Headteacher: Mrs A Dingwall  
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## Thomas A Becket Junior School

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Headteacher: Mr John Gadd M.A., B.Ed. (Hons)  
PA to the Headteacher: Miss Georgina Brown-Felpts

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/carer,

We are writing to inform you about the current position of the 'Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' for primary schools and how this will impact our pupils from Reception age at Thomas A' Becket Infant School, all the way through their school journey until they finish Year 6 at Thomas A' Becket Junior School.

### Current laws on RSE and Health Education

The new curriculum will be mandatory in primary schools from September 2020 onwards, however recently the Department for Education has stated that schools can delay teaching the new curriculum due to the current pandemic:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The focus in primary schools will be on 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.

Themes include:

- What a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them.
- Learning 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, including internet safety.
- 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 school.

We will ensure sensitive and well-judged teaching based on our knowledge of the pupils and their circumstances. Families of many forms provide a nurturing environment for children. (Families can include for example, single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents and carers amongst other structures.) We will reflect sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them; for example, looked after children or young carers.

In both our schools we focus on the development and practice of resilience and other attributes, including character traits such as helping pupils to believe they can achieve, persevere with tasks,

working towards long-term rewards and continue despite setbacks. Alongside understanding the importance of self-respect and self-worth, we assist pupils to develop personal attributes including honesty, integrity, courage, humility, kindness, generosity, trustworthiness and a sense of justice.

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

We will teach pupils the skills they need to recognise and report abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse, focusing on boundaries and privacy, ensuring our young people understand that they have rights over their own bodies, including understanding boundaries in friendships with peers and also in families and with others in all contexts, including online. The learning and conversations that take place will reflect the age and needs of the children, starting with the use of the NSPCC programme, Talk PANTS, in the Infants School leading to more in-depth conversations as the children become older.

Pupils will be taught how to report concerns and seek advice when they suspect or know that something is wrong. At all stages it will be important that we balance teaching children about making sensible decisions to stay safe (including online) whilst being clear it is never the fault of a child who is abused and why victim blaming is always wrong. These subjects complement our Health Education programme and supports the safeguarding of children.

### Sex education (Primary)

Primary schools are not required to teach sex education. However, the Department for Education recommends that all primary schools have a sex education program of work. This includes using correct terminology for naming different body parts. The progression of these has been carefully thought about and discussed across both schools to ensure that children meet the vocabulary relevant for the age that they are at.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex education but this does not include what is taught as part of the science curriculum.

A copy of our respective RSE and Health Education policies will be added to our website.

### The Thomas A' Becket RSE and Health curriculum

Staff from both the infant and junior schools have collaborated on the creation of the RSE and Health curriculum starting in YR and finishing at the end of Y6.

Both school websites will be updated in September 2020 to show how the planning has been broken down into lesson objectives within each year group.

It will also show the key questions that were created by a national group called The Sex Education Forum, after consultation with hundreds of primary schools, that are age appropriate for each year group and that we have incorporated some of these into our plans.

You may want to have conversations with your child(ren) about such questions before they discuss them in class and so we have included some website links to help you to find information that may support those conversations.

As many of our children will not have attended school since March this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both schools are committed to ensuring that they have as smooth a return to school life as possible. The mental well-being of our children is of paramount importance and with this in mind some of the plans may be adapted and changed and some of the objectives brought forwards to reflect this.

If you would like to ask any questions relating to RSHE, once you have read the links on the websites, please contact:

Miss Goodger [fgoodger@tabinfant.org.uk](mailto:fgoodger@tabinfant.org.uk) for Reception, years 1 and 2

Mrs Martinez [jmartinez@tabinfant.org.uk](mailto:jmartinez@tabinfant.org.uk) for Reception, years 1 and 2

Miss Jones [ajones@tabinfant.org.uk](mailto:ajones@tabinfant.org.uk) for Reception, 1 and 2

Mrs Catford [scatford@thomasabecketjunior.org.uk](mailto:scatford@thomasabecketjunior.org.uk) for years 3 and 4

Miss Haines [ahaines@thomasabecketjunior.org.uk](mailto:ahaines@thomasabecketjunior.org.uk) for years 5 and 6

Kind Regards,

The RSE and Health Education Teams from Thomas A' Becket Infant and Thomas A' Becket Junior School.