

Our Ref: RSE/VB/PSHE

5th February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As part of their personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education lessons, our students take part in a series of sex and relationship education (SRE) lessons. These focus mainly on explaining and preparing pupils for the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty. They also consider the changing nature of a range of relationships, including friendships, family relationships and intimate relationships.

The purpose of SRE at St Bede's is to prepare pupils 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. At times, carefully chosen external visitors and speakers may contribute to the programme. In these cases, lesson content will be agreed in advance and visitors will always be supervised by a member of school staff.

As part of this years SRE, pupils will have a lesson which teaches about female genital mutilation (FGM). They will be taught that FGM, also known as female circumcision, cutting or sunna, is illegal in the UK and that it is also a criminal offence to take a UK citizen abroad for the purpose of FGM (whether or not it is lawful in the country the girl is taken to). This will be taught in an age-appropriate way in the context of knowing about bodily changes during puberty, being able to use the correct language, keeping safe and feeling confident to ask questions and discuss in a mature and appropriate way. We believe that this will be an important addition to the RSE programme. If you have concerns or would like to discuss the matter further, please call the school to discuss with Ms Taylor, coordinator of PSHCE.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'V' at the beginning.

Ms V Taylor