

29 June 2017

RB/JB

Dear Parent/Carer

**Year 8 PSHE Mornings - Monday 10 July (8BW) and Thursday 13 July (8CL)**

During the mornings of 10 and 13 July half of our Year 8 students will be involved in a PSHE morning on each day. There will be three sessions during the course of each morning.

The Department of Education requires schools to provide students with information on personal relationships and personal safety that will enable them to make informed choices and thus safeguard their personal well-being. At Carre's we seek to deliver a Sex and Relationship Education programme that provides students with age appropriate information, explores attitudes and values, and develops skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions and choices in their relationships and social activities. This will take place with consideration of the qualities of relationships within families or between individuals. Parents and carers, of course, might wish to support these sessions with their own discussions at home.

We are currently using material produced by Channel 4, a series of video diaries that explore key themes surrounding personal relationships. In Year 8 we explore how a relationship between two individuals might develop from being platonic to being more romantic and intimate. We will look at the issue of consent and consider what level of intimacy might be appropriate at this stage of their development both emotionally and physically. We also consider the pressures young people may face when embarking on dating and the importance of not being pressured into interactions they might not be comfortable with. I have reviewed the material we will be using and believe that it presents information that is age-appropriate and consistent with current health and education policy.

Parents have the right to withdraw their son from sessions that address sexual behaviour and relationships. Any parent wishing to exercise this right should in the first instance contact me at school.

The second session, a Pink History, focuses on same-sex relationships and the how society and its laws with regard to same-sex relationships have changed over the years. It can be quite sobering to see that the timeline of equality is shorter than most people often realise. We look at some scenarios from everyday life to understand the impact of our current laws on equality and the delivery of services, both public and commercial.

The third session will focus on Personal Identity. In this session we will be exploring what shapes our identity as individuals and what diversity looks like in a 21<sup>st</sup> century society. Our aim this year is to "open the discussion" rather than go into in depth exploration on such issues as sexual and gender identity; racism; religious or faith identity and radicalisation. We want our young people to be both confident in their own identity and to be able to understand and respect how others might arrive at a different identity. We would hope that your discussions at home will also support their exploration of these key issues.

Yours faithfully



**Rosemary Brooks**

Designated Lead for Safeguarding and SRE Coordinator