

February 14, 2019

Dear Elementary School Parents,

As many of you know, over the last seven years, the Ministry of Education has developed a Sexuality Education Program that is now mandatory, including at the primary levels. At St. George's, we pride ourselves on our dedication to the development of the whole child, and we feel strongly that this new program will further help us to prepare our students for the future.

Children are naturally curious and ask questions about sexuality. As we are all too aware, they have access to different sources of information on this subject (e.g. friends, family and media). However, the information conveyed is sometimes contradictory, confusing or inaccurate and, consequently, they may have trouble making sense of it. This program goes a long way towards correcting misinformation and providing an age-appropriate foundation from trusted sources.

The Sexuality Education Program, as developed by the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur, promotes a comprehensive, positive vision of sexuality as it is experienced in the mind, the heart and the body. It allows students not only to acquire knowledge, but also to develop respectful, egalitarian attitudes and behaviours. Sexuality education is rooted in values such as gender equality, respect for diversity, respect for the physical and psychological integrity of people, a sense of responsibility and well-being.

Like other learning content in school, sexuality education is structured and progresses over time. The learning content was developed to meet the needs of children and preadolescents, and takes into account the age and level of development of the students. At St. George's, teachers and guidance faculty have already been addressing many aspects of sexuality over the years, often as they are related to specific units of study like "Life Cycles", "Friendships" and "The Human Body". The Ministry has simply created a structure and extensively defined the learning content to be covered each year so that it meets children's needs as they mature.

Sexuality education will not be offered as a separate course; it will not be the responsibility of just one teacher and it will not be evaluated. The program will begin in February 2019 and Zenia Dusaniwsky will coordinate its roll-out from K-6. Her role is to help teachers familiarize themselves with the overall philosophy of the program and, more specifically, to assist in the delivery of the grade-specific lessons.

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We look forward to collaborating with our parent body through the implementation of this program and wish to highlight the fact that the complementary nature of our roles serves to reinforce and optimize both our efforts as a school and yours as parents.

For more information on the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement Supérieur's sexuality education program, including content overview by grade and role of the parent in supporting its successful delivery, please visit:

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/references/publications/results/detail/article/sexuality-education-parents/>

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aidan De Jean".

Aidan De Jean  
Assistant Head, High School

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zenia Dusaniwsky".

Zenia Dusaniwsky  
Sexuality Education Program Coordinator

*“At St. George’s, we provide a nurturing, respectful environment that encourages both self-discovery and collaboration; our students enjoy and value learning.”*