

Our Ref: 091 15

June 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Health Related Behaviour Surveys

St Margaret's, along with several other schools, has agreed to participate in a very important Health Behaviour Survey amongst young people. We have been asked to support the work of the Local Authority and Public Health and we stand to benefit substantially through our participation in the survey.

The survey data in schools may prompt a review of the curriculum and has also been used in a variety of ways including:

1. As a starting point for discussion in classroom activities
2. As a guide in the choice of resources
3. As a prompt for appropriate timing of courses
4. As a beginning for further enquiry to strengthen existing programmes, e.g. in PE
5. As a starting point for discussions between parents and schools

The survey method that we are using has been developed by the Schools Health Education Unit in Exeter and has been in use now for over 30 years. Over 2000 schools have used the survey, many of the regularly repeating the survey.

The questions concern a wide range of health behaviours, for example:

Home and family
Tobacco, Alcohol
Drugs
Healthy Earing

Relationships, emotional health and well-being
Leisure and money
Sexual health
Exercise

The Local authority and Public Health will also have a reliable database upon which it can objectively plan health care provision for young people. Links between the individual school and the Authority can be strengthened.

Both the Local Authority and St Margaret's find the content of the questionnaire acceptable; it has been customised to suit our local setting.

Each questionnaire is anonymous and confidential and no pupil will be identified when the data is returned to St Margaret's. The Local Authority will receive only the summary of all schools in which individual schools are not identified.

I hope you will agree with us that this is an exercise in which we wish to co-operate fully. I will assume you do approve unless I hear otherwise and I look forward to working with you in planning improved health promotion for our pupils.

At one point, the questionnaire asks pupils for their postcode. This is to facilitate the drawing of maps on the final report; please rest assured that individual houses cannot, and will not, be identified.

The survey will probably be carried out in the next month.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Lawton
Assistant Principal

Mr S Brierley
Principal

