**To           :              Headteachers; Chairs of Governors; Foundation Governors; Ex-officio clergy**

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               19th November 2020**

**Re           :              Relationships and Sex Education Update**

Dear colleagues

I’m sure that you will already have noted but **attached is a summary of the DfE update** that clarifies further information that has been shared. I’m also attaching our **Consultation Guidance** that we shared several months ago, and hope that the process is either in train or planned for the new year. Our original **RSE Guidance document** is attached for ease so you have everything in one place.

Last week **The Church of England published a landmark set of resources** drawing together the Bible, theology, science and history with powerful real-life stories as it embarks on a new process of discernment and decision-making on questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The product of three years’ work by more than 40 people, led by the Bishop of Coventry, [*Living in Love and Faith* includes a 480-page book](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kc8wn-0008gi-3L&i=57e1b682&c=N_ZZLMXNy35oI9b1jurtAdUWKpIlb68dFwikrfWw77gtdsgH3Iup_WGdszCi2jAP0l0tVNZJOeFtqtpzrkYbjGcUlC3Io4MKmEWgrBRJf_mT7_bk9MCEcbO0r435lYFf8NLXw7KJZZIjlgdNnKf1M3lTbgoqXRZCAy9t7oEtB_hKVf23w5324zP1jf4aUVVATvw53HH583Br93qoLjfo86KYS7a0TjNWiGeCPvRsAuapTmUU5f8kNqUdXfmHVqiDSlJw9rvZg_tK4dssDMuIqr51ypky9KKRbxrmATm43XXKp3ZXBQcvIRLsZAacwoNJLs5r4cFisxhDEQN2McxX5Q), a series of films and podcasts, a course and an online library of other publications, in what is thought to be the most extensive work in this area by any faith group in the world. I commend these to you as it will assist in developing your own policies and practice, but need to clarify that any decisions by the CofE regarding, for example, same-sex marriage, will not be discussed by Synod, at the earliest until the period of discernment ends.

Bishop Tim will still be involved nationally as part of the Continuation Group. As the LLF advocate for Winchester, Bishop David will lead the engagement process in this Diocese and further details on what is planned will be available in due course.

In the new year we will be offering **training for RE Coordinators in the Teaching of Marriage from the CofE perspective**, and will be offering **training for Senior Leadership Teams / Whole Staff / Governing Bodies on Diversity and Inclusivity.**

Thank you for your engagement in this process and for taking on board the advice we have been giving you on receipt of your proposed policies.

Best wishes

Jeff

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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