

24 May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to you to share with you some updated information regarding our Relationships and Sex Education policy (RSE) and how you can find out further information regarding the policy, curriculum, associated resources and the right of withdrawal.

**The aims of Relationships and Sex education (RSE) at our school are as follows:**

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

**Statutory guidance**

As a secondary academy, we must provide RSE to all pupils. In developing our policy and curriculum and teaching RSE, we are required to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

**Curriculum coverage**

RSE is taught within our PSHE lessons and is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE). Forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM (female genital mutilation) are taught as part of staying safe in PSHE.

**We develop the RSE policy curriculum taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils.** If pupils ask questions outside the scope of our policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online. Decisions about the age appropriateness and sequencing of topics were based upon an age specific curriculum approved by the PSHE Association.

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### **Right of Withdrawal**

RSE is part of all pupils' education and it is hoped that all will participate. Some parts of RSE are compulsory – these are part of the National Curriculum for science. **Parents/carers only have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE, up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16.** After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents/carers and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education. This information is also available on our school website.

**Our RSE policy and curriculum, including the right of withdrawal for sex education only outside of the statutory Science curriculum, are clearly set out on our website,** so as parents/carers, you are clear about what is taught, at which point, across the academic year. We may need to adapt the curriculum as and when necessary, due to government updates or contextual issues in the school/wider community.

- Please click [here](#) for the link to our RSE policy and right of withdrawal
- Please click [here](#) for the link to our wider PSHE curriculum map, which highlights when RSE is taught.

### **Opportunities to discuss the RSE policy, curriculum and view samples of resources used**

- You are welcome to view the curriculum and share your views online at any time. Here is the link to our permanent consultation document - [Parental Consultation](#).
- We will be running a face-to-face RSE consultation session on Thursday 6 June, 3.30-6.00pm, to provide the opportunity for parents/carers to view resources, feedback their views and ask questions. Please book a time slot via Edulink.
- We will also be hosting an online meeting for parents/carers, whereby you can feed back your views, ask any questions you may have and view resources. The date will be Thursday 13 June, 2.15-6.00pm. Please book a time slot via Edulink.

If you wish to book an appointment outside of the online meeting and face to face parent/carer meeting to feedback your views, see resources used or ask any further questions, do not hesitate to contact the school through [hello@gra.hslt.academy](mailto:hello@gra.hslt.academy)

Yours faithfully

Mr M Bell  
Director of Learning for Philosophy and Ethics