



September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As part of our school's wider Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programme, your child will soon receive lessons on relationships, sexual health and personal safety. You may already be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, has now become part of the National Curriculum.

The purpose of the curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.

It is vital that we continue to educate young people about what is and is not acceptable to support healthy relationships and empower children to have the confidence to speak out. If you do have any concerns or would like to talk to us about this topic then please do not hesitate to contact the school through the main school office.

You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools, which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

If you wish for your child to be withdrawn from the elements of sex education covered within the new RSE programme of study, a letter of withdrawal is required to be sent to the Headteacher. Our RSE Policy, including a form for withdrawing your child from the sex education element of RSE can be found on our [website](#).

We are confident you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the new SEL curriculum, which we feel will benefit all of our students. You are welcome to contact me to discuss the programme further.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. G. Mainwaring
Head of Humanities and Social Sciences

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