

June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)**

I hope this correspondence finds you all well and safe at this difficult time.

Further to the correspondence earlier in the year, I felt it was pertinent to send you an update to outline the delivery of RSE and the statutory changes pertaining to the RSE curriculum that come into effect at the start of next academic year.

In light of the current pandemic, we are unable to hold the events which were planned for parents and carers to come into the school and raise any queries directly. Therefore I have included some information and helpful links for you below and ask if you have any further queries to contact me via [cholt@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:cholt@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk).

RSE is an important part of a young person's education and our aim is to provide students with factual information about puberty, body image, healthy relationships and sexual health. At Stopsley High School, students will complete two modules of RSE each academic year with a clear emphasis on building healthy relationships to ensure that every child has the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills to navigate an ever changing world.

The RSE programme follows the scheme of learning from the PSHE association and is based on advice and guidance from public health. The scheme is sequential in nature and is based on prior knowledge and understanding. RSE is a compulsory element of the national curriculum and is fundamental in the health and development and success of our students.

As you are undoubtedly aware there have been statutory changes pertaining to the RSE curriculum in schools. Please find attached a flyer showing Frequently Asked Questions. Opportunities have been provided for you to discuss the changes should you wish to and the associated implications. These are detailed on the attached flyer.

We will be following the statutory guidance from the Department for Education which means that all students will partake in lessons regarding relationships, however parents may wish to withdraw their child from Sex Education lessons. Your child can be opted back into the lessons at any time given parental consent during years 7 to 10 and by the student themselves 3 terms before they turn 16. If the student opts themselves back into the Sex Education lessons the school is under no obligation to inform the parent/carers, and will be asked to sign a letter to confirm they wish to opt themselves back into the Sex Education lessons.

The programme will be delivered in two modules over the course of the academic year. Module one will be delivered in the first half of the spring term 2020 and Module two in the summer term 2020. The overview of the content covered for each year group is listed below:

<b><u>Year 7</u></b> Friendships, diversity and prejudice, self-esteem, puberty, FGM, romance and family life.
<b><u>Year 8</u></b> Racism, discrimination, online safety, sexuality, introduction to consent, contraception and STIs.
<b><u>Year 9</u></b> Managing conflict, sexuality and identity, tackling prejudice, healthy relationships, consent, risks of STIs, sexting and pornography.
<b><u>Year 10</u></b> Personal values and communication in relationships, domestic abuse and forced marriage, exploitation, sexuality, understanding families, parenting skills, understanding change, bereavement and loss.
<b><u>Year 11</u></b> Tackling relationship myths, attitudes towards sex, coping with break ups, understanding change, bereavement and loss. British values, community cohesion and challenging extremism and radicalisation.

If you would like any further information about the planned RSE programme or would like to discuss your child's involvement, then please email your query to [cholt@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:cholt@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk) where we will be happy to discuss the changes with you.

Information can also be found using the links below. Direct links can be found on this letter on our website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

[https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/supporting\\_documents/RSEPSHEFAQs.pdf](https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/supporting_documents/RSEPSHEFAQs.pdf)

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs C. Holt**  
Curriculum Leader for PSHCE