

Thursday 24th June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

On Friday the 5th June 2020, the Department for Education announced that teaching Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) will still be compulsory for all Schools and Academies from September 2020. As an Academy we have been working to ensure that the delivery of RSE is well planned and designed to be informative, keep our students safe, reduce risk and be at the correct age appropriate level.

Statutory requirements:

As an Academy we must provide RSE to all Secondary aged students, as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act (2017).

In teaching RSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State as outlined in Section 403 of the Education Act (1996).

At Park Campus Academy we teach RSE as set out in the RSE policy which is available at:

<https://www.parkcampus.org.uk/our-academy/documents-and-policies>

Definition: RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of students, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. These topics are covered at different depths appropriate to the age and developmental maturity of the students.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at our Academy are to:

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

Curriculum:

We have developed our curriculum to take into account the age, needs and feelings of our students. If students ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Delivery of RSE:

RSE is taught within our Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum. Basic biological aspects of RSE are also taught within the subject. RSE is also supported across the academy curriculum in other subjects such as PE and Princes Trust.

Students can will also continue to receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional (School Nurse) at the academy.

A student's chronological age will determine the curriculum legally available to them, but we will also carefully consider each student's developmental maturity, along with any Special Educational Needs, when tailoring the curriculum to be delivered.

RSE in the Secondary phase focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

Roles and responsibilities:

The Headteacher:

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw students from non-statutory components of RSE

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual students
- Responding appropriately to students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE

Students:

Students are expected to engage in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Parents' right to withdraw:

Parents of Secondary students **have** the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory 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 using the form found at the bottom of this letter 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 and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to students who are withdrawn from relationship and sex education.

Training: Staff are trained on the delivery of Relationship Education as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar. The specific 'Sexual' elements of the RSE curriculum are delivered by trained staff, who have received additional CPD training for the roles.

The Academy may also invite visitors from outside the school, such as School Nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

I would finally cordially invite you as a parent/guardian to an RSE Information Presentation Meeting at 3:30pm on Thursday 8th July in the Sports Hall, where any additional questions you may have will be answered.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Mallett', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Nick Mallett
Assistant Head Teacher – RSE Lead

PARENT AKNOWLEDGEMENT/PERMISSION: TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS

Secondary Children:

Name of child		Class	
Name of parent Please sign if child is aged 11-16		Date	
<p>You do have a right to withdraw your child from Sex Education delivered as part of RSE in Primary Schools, however it is statutory for them to participate in Relationships and Sex Education when between the ages of 11-16 years from September 2020. Topics around family, friendship, keeping safe online and offline, emotional well-being, healthy relationships and sex education are covered. Currently, as it is prior to the statutory change of all secondary school students to access Sex Education, you do have the right to withdraw your child for a personal or religious reason. Therefore, if you do not wish for your child to participate, please inform us below on the permission slip.</p> <p>I do / do not give consent to my child to participate in the delivery of Sex Education at Secondary Level: Yes/No</p>			
<p>Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education (Optional) Personal / Religious Comment:</p>			
Parent signature Withdrawal only			
Parent Permission granted signature			