

RSHE Information – Sexual Abuse and Harm

Rye College addresses sexual harm, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, sexual violence, online abuse and issues of consent in a number of ways. This is primarily achieved through the Life Education curriculum which incorporates RSHE.

Life Education has dedicated curriculum time. It supports students to develop a healthy lifestyle and to develop an understanding of how social influences, such as drugs, alcohol, peer pressure and social media, can influence respectful and healthy relationships.

RSHE is delivered as a spiral curriculum and works through: healthy relationships; recognising and responding to bullying and abuse; marriage, forced marriage and the law; sexting; consent in Year 9 – respecting the right to give, withhold and withdraw; and readiness for sexual intimacy, consent in Year 10 – recognising and understanding coercion and persuasion within relationships.

In-line with our safeguarding policy, students are informed of and know how to ask for help, how to support each other and how to access information, advice and guidance. There are specific lessons for each year group that focus on developing confidence to ask for help; peer support; breaking confidence; accessing IAG; the right to confidentiality; and pregnancy pathways. In addition: in-school support from Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads; the Student Hub; Place2Be counsellors; WISE and the School Nurse. Students are also signposted to external support services such as their GP, Police, Childline, NSPCC, Chat Health and the East Sussex Sexual Health Team.

Harmful sexual behaviour is also addressed through our tutor and assembly programme whereby themes such as child sexual exploitation, modern-day slavery and e-safety are delivered through a presentation, then followed up with further information, discussions and debates.

To reinforce messages around these issues we work with a number of outside agencies and organisations. These include the Police, who come in to deliver some Life Education lessons e.g. healthy relationships, county lines, peer-on-peer abuse etc. and the PSHE Hub who provide training and access to theatre performances and workshops for students across a number of year groups.