

April 2021

## Relationship, Health and Sex Education for Pupils at Sutton House Academy

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

As you may already be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, is now a statutory subject within the National Curriculum. This change begins as of September 2020 and we are proud to say we have created a RHSE curriculum here at Sutton House to support your child on their journey as they grow up with us. At Sutton House, we will be delivering some RHSE lessons to all pupils from Year 6 up to Year 11 during the summer term of this academic year. All objectives for our curriculum have been carefully selected and placed appropriately so all aspects are age appropriate and relevant to our pupils.

The purpose of our RHSE curriculum, is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect, developing awareness around safe, consensual and respectful sex and maintaining good personal health. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The subject is designed to help pupils from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. Furthermore, as your child reaches puberty, it is imperative that they are aware of the changes they may face currently or in the upcoming months and years. As your child progresses through secondary school, they will have the opportunity to learn about Relationships, Health and Sex, in a safe environment in an appropriate way with their class teacher/tutor.

We believe that your child, alongside all pupils, have the right to understand what it means to grow up, in order to keep themselves safe and be 'in the know' about life whilst being a young adult. Many young people are vulnerable and it is of yours and our top priority to ensure they are safe. Therefore, by them participating in RSHE lessons, this will equip them for any uncertainties or challenges they may face in their personal lives whilst in their adolescent years. Our curriculum has been designed to support our pupils by teaching them to understand human sexuality, to respect themselves and others, enable them to mature, build their confidence and self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity so they can at the right, consensual time develop safe, fulfilling and healthy sexual relationships.

As a parent, you are within your rights to withdraw your child from Sex Education on religious grounds, however it is statutory for them to participate in all aspects of this subject, as most topics are included within the Science National Curriculum and within the DfE guidance for RSHE. Please bear in mind, from the age of 15, pupils can override parental consent to participate in Sex Education lessons. If you do not wish for your child to participate in Sex Education in Years 6-10, due to personal or religious reasons, then please contact **Alexis Bull** (Headteacher) or **Sally Roche** (RSE Leader) to discuss further.

Most RSE content is delivered in mixed gender classes as it is important that all pupils have an understanding around all areas of the curriculum; however, there may be some occasions whereby pupils will have discussions in a small group with a member of staff to offer further support. The reason for this is so that all pupils have the correct knowledge and understanding around growing up regardless of gender. Many misconceptions can be made by children through speaking on the playground or when out and about with other children. Therefore, it is important that they have knowledge of the correct facts so they understand these matters as they are growing up.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your continued support.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Yours sincerely,

*S. Roche*

Miss Sally Roche  
RHSE Lead

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**Relationship, Health and Sex Education for pupils at Sutton House Academy**

**Permission Slip**

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

I **do/do not** give consent to my child to participate in the delivery of Sex Education at Sutton House **Yes/ No**

I **do/ do not** give consent for my child to participate in RHSE lessons from Year 7 onwards **Yes / No**

Reason (Optional) **Personal / Religious**

Parent/Carer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

