



September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

At Wandle Valley Academy we cover compulsory aspects of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) throughout the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Personal Development curriculum from Years 7-11. The Primary department also cover aspects of RSHE throughout their curriculum areas, but to the degree appropriate to both the age and level of understanding of the students.

In the secondary department we cover the following aspects of RSHE:

- Families and committed relationships
- Positive and healthy friendships
- Physical changes/body image
- Online behaviour
- Keeping safe
- Intimate relationships
- Child development
- Healthy behaviours
- Mental wellbeing

Current guidance on RSHE from the Department for Education (DfE) says:

- It's up to schools to make sure that the needs of all pupils are met in their programmes
- Young people, whatever their developing sexuality, need to feel that RSHE is relevant to them and sensitive to their needs
- Teachers should be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support
- There should be no direct promotion of sexual orientation

The DfE has set statutory guidance on RSHE, which became compulsory from 2020. Its guidance says:

- Schools are free to determine how they address lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)-specific content
- The DfE recommends LGBT-specific content is integral throughout the programmes of study
- Schools should ensure that their teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate and delivered with reference to the law

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At Wandle Valley Academy we believe it is important to educate pupils about diversity in society, including sexual and gender orientation. We also recognise that these can be sensitive and emotive topics and ones which you may wish to discuss with your child personally at home, rather than in the public setting of a classroom.

If you have any concerns about your child learning about Relationship, Sex and Health education, including content covering Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) orientation, please do not hesitate to contact me at kpeck@wandlevalleyacademy.org.uk or 020 8648 1365.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katherine Peck'.

Katherine Peck

Assistant Head and PSHE Lead