

16 June 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Re: Statutory changes to the PSHE curriculum

We are writing to inform you about planned changes to the PSHE curriculum, and particularly to the RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) element, which will become a requirement in all secondary schools in the next twelve months.

Our policy at The King's CE School states that:

RSE is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, including marriage, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health with a focus on dealing with emotions and managing personal relationships. RSE also gives young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. It provides opportunities for young people to reflect on their own attitude's values and beliefs and those of their peers and others.

You can find our full RSE policy on our school website.

In line with our policy and with the new government requirements, our new draft PSHE curriculum has been designed to enable pupils to explore aspects of healthy and unhealthy relationships in a safe environment and to gain the knowledge and skills they will need for making safe, healthy, respectful and informed decisions at the appropriate time. Empathy, respect, responsibility and forgiveness are practised throughout our learning together and the topics we address will be approached sensitively and in an age-appropriate manner.

A brief summary of topics we plan to cover in our RSE lessons can be seen in the table below, and wider ranging topics covered in PSHE at The King's School can be accessed via our VLE.

In Year...	Planned RSE topics to be covered include...
7	Safe internet use and online friendships (the avoidance of online grooming) Maintaining genuine friendships and avoiding toxic ones Changing family and gender roles over the decades The role of hormones in teenage feelings of love and infatuation When is 'banter' bullying and the prevention of online bullying Emotional literacy and anger management Puberty – how the body changes (<i>also covered in science lessons</i>) The menstrual cycle and PMS (<i>also covered in science lessons</i>) FGM – recognising the dangers, the law and support available
8	The legal meaning of 'consent' Contraception* (including its limitations and where to get advice) The dangers and damage caused by pornography* The dangers and consequences (including the law) around sexting* STIs – symptoms and prevention* Dealing with domestic conflict The challenges faced in teenage pregnancy Prejudice, discrimination and the Equality Act 2010 The avoidance of online grooming
9	Identifying and responding to abusive relationships and peer pressure Gender diversity and stereotyping Young offenders and the consequences of knife crime
10	Grief, bereavement, suicide Hate crime: current trends and the reasons behind them The effect of social media on self-esteem Conflict management Forced marriages – support available and the difference to arranged marriages Gender identity awareness Issues surrounding harassment and stalking Revenge porn and the legal consequences* The challenges of parenting The law, the dangers and the consequences of anti-social behaviour, county lines, money laundering and racism
11	Fertility and reproductive health (<i>also covered in science in Year 10</i>) Bullying and body shaming Traditional and non-traditional relationships Safe and unsafe sex (including drug use)* Self-examination (led by the nurses) Pregnancy, miscarriage and abortion*

As a parent or guardian you have the right to withdraw your child, up to the age of 16, from any sex education lesson which is **not** covered at that stage elsewhere in the curriculum (e.g. in science lessons). We have marked these with an asterisk *. Please note that this does not apply to the relationship lessons. We do hope that you would not do so without engaging first in a conversation with us in which we could listen to your views and have the opportunity to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

As we now enter a period of consultation with you, we will be asking you to consider our planned new curriculum and to feed back to us via the link provided below, or an email to Mrs J Kudlacik:

- to let us know that you have received and read this letter and whether you agree to your child participating in Sex Education lessons from September
- whether you would like to attend a consultation meeting in the Autumn Term to discuss the government requirements and our curriculum in more detail
- to add a comment outlining any concerns you may have at this stage.

Please respond by Friday 10th July

Using this link: <https://bit.ly/3e7MLrR>

Or by emailing: j.kudlacik@kingswolverhampton.co.uk with the subject **PSHE consultation**

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Kudlacik
Lead Teacher for PSHE

Mr P Sutton
Vice-Principal