

18/10/2023

RE: Statutory teaching of Relationships, sex, and health education

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are all aware, it is a legal requirement set out by the government that primary and secondary schools inclusive of those that are independent SEND provisions to teach sex education, relationships, and health education. These can be defined as the following:

Sex education

Primary: Knowing body parts, puberty, the human body as it grows from birth to old age, reproduction in plants and animals

Secondary: Developing intimate relationships, contraception, peer pressure, safer sex, reproductive health, choice and consent, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, impacts of alcohol and drugs on risky sexual behaviour, advice, and medical support sources. Sex and the law.

Relationships

Primary- Characteristics of positive relationships in friendships, families, and adults. Early education of turn taking, kindness, honesty, permission, play concepts and privacy inclusive of online learning. The difference between safe and unsafe physical contact. Different types of family and family life, marriage, and other partnerships. Bullying and managing relationships ups and downs.

Secondary- Committed relationships, marriage, and legal status. Roles and responsibilities of parents in raising children. Knowing their rights and responsibilities within relationships and future opportunities. Understanding the characteristics of healthy relationships and keeping safe with in different relationship contexts.

Health

Primary- self-esteem and positive character building, recognising feelings, being safe and asking for help and raising concerns. Knowing your body and that each person's body belongs to them. PSHE values such as healthy eating and physical activity.

Secondary- Resilience, character building, giving views, having a sense of justice, achieving goals, showing kindness, helping others, internet safety, phone safety. Aspects of the law including gender identity, substance misuse, exploitation, hate crime, sexuality, online behaviours, extremism, and radicalisation.

Additional PSHE themes- Independence, self-control and self-regulation, wellbeing, managing health and medication, personal hygiene and menstruation, hobbies and leisure interests, emotions, healthy living and eating and basic first aid.

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Respecting religious backgrounds

When we teach these subject areas, we aim to respect and consider the religious background of all students and to teach a broad range of perspectives whilst considering the Equality act (2010) and the law.

Communities

When teaching these subject areas, we aim to respect the range of families and communities are students live within and experience inclusive of lesbian, gay and transgender communities. We will comply with the Equality act (2010) and maintain sensitive delivery of learning throughout.

Materials and learning delivery.

At Meldreth Manor School we use a rolling RSE and PSHE topic programme based on healthy school standards and guidance from the PSHE association. In KS 1-2 topics are introduced termly across three years with some repetition and in KS 3- onwards we introduce termly topics on a rolling programme of two years. Please see the topic grid attached to this letter.

As much of our teaching to students is bespoke to their needs and highly differentiated, we will continue to do this in the delivery of RSE and PSHE working at the pace of the individual and addressing arising areas of needs with social stories, social thinking, and practical learning where appropriate.

Working in partnership with parents and carers

Partnership working is recommended with parents and carers throughout the delivery of RSE and PSHE as it is widely recognised that young people trust their families and teachers the most to address such topics with them and develop and embed their learning. We aim to do this through:

- Regular information sharing of topics themes and activities
- Recording and reporting progress using tapestry
- Consultation through EHCP reviews, surveys, and parent meetings as well as individual meetings
- Working in a multidisciplinary way to support young people when issues relating to RSE and PSHE arise.

A right to be taught RSE and PSHE

Government guidance states that it is every child's right regardless of need to be taught RSE and PSHE education. It is the job of the school to differentiate and provide learning that is in range of the learning ability of the young person. All children must have access to teaching for healthy relationships and PSHE and can't be withdrawn from this.



Parents and carers do have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from some or all sex education delivery which should be reviewed yearly. If parents and carers request withdrawal from RSE a period of discussion will take

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place to explain the aspects of the curriculum and its importance and to ensure the wishes of the child and parents/ carers are understood. This will be recorded and then access withdrawn if appropriate. During this process the SEND needs and exceptional circumstances will be considered.

Useful links

- [What is PSHE education? \(pshe-association.org.uk\)](https://pshe-association.org.uk)
- [Personal, social, health and economic \(PSHE\) education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Home - School Health Check | Healthy Schools](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you would like to ask any further questions, please contact me:
Emily.willis@the-aurora-group.com

Yours sincerely
Emily Willis



Head of School

Consent

In the form below please indicate your consent for your child to take part in RSE education, this consent will be requested yearly. Please return the form to Emily Willis.

I give/ I don't give my consent for.....to take part in relationship and sex education sessions.

Name: Signature:.....

Date:.....

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Acknowledged by Head of School:..... Date:.....

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