



The  
Portsmouth Academy

10 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may already be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, now forms part of the Statutory National Curriculum.

As part of our school's wider Personal, Social and Health Education programme, your child will soon receive lessons on relationships, sexual health and personal safety.

The purpose of the upcoming curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. We also believe that to be a member of the school community, children should be taught about relationships and given the opportunity to discuss this in a mature manner.

You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. However, we are confident you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the new PSHE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all of our students.

Please see an overview of the curriculum by visiting the following: <https://www.theportsmouthacademy.org.uk/curriculum/> and selecting PSHE.

The link to the statutory guidance regarding the teaching of PSHE can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

We will be opening a two week consultation window for parents to feedback their views on the provision. This will run between 9th November 2020 to 23rd November 2020. Please use the links provided and contact me via email with your views, if you wish ([a.hatherley@tsatrust.org.uk](mailto:a.hatherley@tsatrust.org.uk)).

Yours sincerely,

Mr Hatherley  
Vice Principal – Making Excellence a Habit

[www.theportsmouthacademy.org.uk](http://www.theportsmouthacademy.org.uk)

TRANSFORMING LIFE CHANCES

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