

24 November 2020

Parents and Carers,

As a part of your child's education at St Katherine's, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential. In Years 7, 8 and 9, PSHE lessons take place once a fortnight.

I am writing to let you know that, during terms 5 and 6, your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme.

RSE lessons in Year 9 will include teaching about:

- readiness for sexual intimacy, the choice to delay sex, or to enjoy intimacy without sex
- to understand a variety of faith and cultural practices and beliefs concerning relationships and sexual activity; to respect the role these might play in relationship values
- about the concept of consent in maturing relationships
- the risks related to unprotected sex and contraception use
- the portrayal of sex in the media and social media (including pornography) and how this can affect people's expectations of relationships and sex
- to recognise unwanted attention (such as harassment and stalking including online)

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website for more detail about our [PSHE curriculum](#). All PSHE will take place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

The St Katherine's SRE programme responds to the needs of individual students and takes the cultures, faiths and family backgrounds of all students into consideration. However, as parents and carers you have the right to withdraw your child from any or all aspects of Sex Education, other than those which are part of the science curriculum, up to and until three terms before your child reaches the age of 16. After this point, if your child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements to provide them with this sex education during one of those terms. Further information about the new statutory guidelines, including the parents' right to withdraw, can be found [here](#).

If you **do not** wish your child to take part in these sessions or have any concerns, please contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Huzzey

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