Parents' Guide to RSE (right to withdraw)

Understanding Relationships, Sex and Health Education at Aspire Schools: a guide for parents

All secondary age children are taught Relationships, Sex and Health Education. These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. We deliver the content through PSHE (and Science) in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate, and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.

Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships and Sex Education aims to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, informed nurturing relationships of all kinds. At Aspire Schools, we cover healthy and unhealthy relationships, including a good friend, colleague and successful marriage or committed relationship. At the appropriate time, the focus will move to developing intimate relationships, to equip your child with knowledge they need to make safe, informed and healthy choices as they progress through adult life.

By the end of secondary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families
- respectful relationships, including friendships
- online safety and awareness
- being safe
- intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

You can find further details by searching 'relationships, sex and health education' on GOV.UK.

Health Education

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing; to recognise issues in themselves and others; and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

By the end of secondary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- physical health
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

You can find further details by searching 'relationships, sex and health education' on GOV.UK.

The important lessons we teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued within the curriculum.

At Aspire Schools, we will consult with you when developing and renewing our policies on Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

These policies are published online and be available to view by anybody, free of charge.

You can express your opinion to support us, in deciding how and when to cover the content of the statutory guidance.

Right to withdraw your child

Withdrawal decisions are made by the Headteacher, rather than being automatically granted or refused by a subject leader. The arrangements below apply consistently with the Aspire Schools' PSHE Policies.

Parents and carers may request withdrawal of their child from some or all of the sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education, Health Education or relevant content in the statutory Science curriculum.

Requests should be addressed to the Headteacher of the school, preferably in writing using the form below. The school will also consider requests made by other accessible means and will record the request and decision.

The Headteacher will meet or communicate with the parent or carer and, where appropriate, the pupil, to understand the reasons for the request, explain the purpose and content of sex education, and discuss the pupil's needs and any safeguarding considerations.

Except in exceptional circumstances, the Headteacher will respect a parental request for withdrawal. Any decision to refuse withdrawal will be made individually, with reasons recorded and communicated sensitively, taking account of the pupil's particular circumstances and vulnerabilities.

Where withdrawal is agreed, the school will provide purposeful, appropriate alternative education during the relevant sex education lessons.

From three terms before the pupil turns 16, the pupil may choose to receive sex education despite an earlier parental request for withdrawal. The school will arrange for them to receive it if they wish.

If you want to know more about what will be taught as part of these subjects, please contact us directly.

Parent/carer form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE request

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Year	
Name of parents/carers		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent/carers signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents/carers	Include notes from discussions with parents/carers and agreed actions taken. *E.g.: Joe Bloggs will be taking part in all relationship lessons and during the sex education lessons, he will be found an alternative relationships based activity in a separate location.*