

24 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As a part of your child's educational experience at Bishop Milner Catholic College, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives children and young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes came into effect from September 2020 and all schools have been required to comply with the updated requirements. Due to COVID 19 schools have been able to delay this until the summer term 2021. The statutory guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships.

Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

Consequently, Relationships, along with Health Education, are statutory and form part of the National Curriculum. For Secondary schools, Sex Education has also become statutory. However, the DfE continue to recommend that all secondary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Where schools provide sex education at key stages 3 and 4, parents will have the right to withdraw their child from sex education but not from statutory Relationships Education, Health Education or what is taught in the Science National curriculum.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our students based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and disabilities

Whilst I am sure that there will be differing opinions on this, we hope that consulting with you will help to inform our decisions on when and how certain content is covered, and enable us to reach a general consensus. Consequently, as part of our curriculum review we would appreciate your views on our draft policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Parental Consultation link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PMtEww0HRUSAIY7N9GE2dFAGw-cAC-NFkXggFIHTZ31UMIBWWUM5TzZiQIdOMVNUTOFFSEM5WDIHTi4u>

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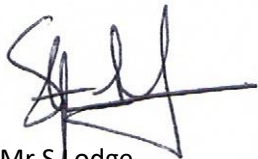
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Your views are very important to us and we will respond to you on the outcome of this process later this term. Once we have considered all the feedback, the finalised Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be uploaded to the college website; which will also set out the proposed curriculum.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the consultation process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Lodge', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr S Lodge
Assistant Principal

Mr J Bradbury
Whole-college Lead for Personal Development

SLO/JBR/JGI