

Our ref: GHA/AKE

Monday 6th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

LIFE Lessons at Outwood Academy Portland

As part of our Personal Development provision for students, we deliver a comprehensive Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum. Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) is the statutory element of our PSHE curriculum and all schools in England are required to teach RSHE in secondary schools. We ensure that all statutory objectives are covered so that all students learn about different relationships, physical/mental health and wellbeing and staying safe. This learning happens across the academy curriculum in all year groups and across multiple subjects, however the majority of the teaching and learning takes place in LIFE lessons.

These lessons include learning about human reproduction and sexual relationships. This content is covered in Year 9. **Lessons are taught by Outwood Academy Portland staff and include content such as: consent, sexting, body image and pornography, types of relationships, domestic violence, contraception, STIs and pregnancy and parenting.** This will be taking place next half term.

The learning that takes place in these lessons is vital to support young people in developing the knowledge needed to stay safe and act responsibly. The statutory guidance on RSHE states that **parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from lessons that cover statutory Relationships and Health Education objectives. Nor do they have the right to withdraw their child from lessons that cover national curriculum science objectives.** This includes all the information on puberty and how the human body changes. However, **parents do have the right to ask that their child is withdrawn from the non-statutory Sex Education lessons if they desire.** However, this is only up until three school terms before your child turns 16. At this age, your child can choose to receive Sex Education if they would like to. If you would like to read the government guidance on this, please click [here](#).

We invite you to contact the Lead of LIFE (g.hartley@portland.outwood.com) if you would like to know more about our curriculum and the resources we use – we will be very happy to talk through any questions you may have. If you would like to request a withdrawal from the non-statutory section, please contact us before Friday 17th February 2023 by writing a letter to the Principal, Mrs Sheehan, explaining that you would like your child to opt out and for what reasons.

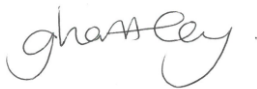
Our Relationships, Sex and Health Education is fully inclusive to meet the needs of all our students. We fully believe that all children should learn about these important life skills in an open, honest and safe environment. We also believe that they should be taught in an age-appropriate and engaging way.

We encourage parents and carers to view our Relationships and Sex Education Policy and scheme of work. These can be found on our website under Subject Overviews.

We believe it is important to have a strong partnership with parents and carers and will always communicate what is being taught when. We will also provide any further reading or support for any parents and carers wishing to discuss the objectives taught with their children at home.

Any children who are withdrawn from lessons covering non-statutory content will be provided with alternative learning in another learning space.

Yours faithfully,



Gabrielle Hartley
Teacher of History and Lead of Life