



15 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Sex Education (as part of PSHE/RSE) - Parent right to withdraw 2023/24 academic year

If you wish to withdraw your child from sex education lessons for this academic year please complete this Google Form [here](#) (Should you prefer, a paper copy of this form is available in the schools RSE policy).

Please find a [link here](#) to the PSHE webpage which captures the broader PSHE delivery at SWBGS including some sample materials of our RSE programme. Our PSHE and RSE policies are also available on www.swbgs.com.

Sex education is part of statutory RSE as identified in the [DfE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education Statutory guidance DfE statutory guidance](#)

This is the only aspect of RSE that parents/carers can exercise their right to withdraw their child. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education (but not relationships education) up until 3 terms before the pupil's 16th birthday, whereupon pupils can choose to opt in. This does not include the sex education element which sits in the National Curriculum as part of science.

More specifically, the sex education lessons that parents may withdraw their child from will focus on intimate and sexual relationships including sexual health. It will be these DfE outcomes below that you are withdrawing your child from. These bullet points are not all taught in year 7, but rather spiral up through the key stages between years 7 to 11 in an age relevant and appropriate manner. As a school we promote the teaching of these outcomes and encourage parents to keep their children in these lessons.

- how to recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships, which include mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex and friendship.
- that all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, e.g. physical, emotional, mental, sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing.
- the facts about reproductive health, including fertility, and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women and menopause.

- that there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressuring others.
- that they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex.
- the facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available.
- the facts around pregnancy including miscarriage.
- that there are choices in relation to pregnancy (with medically and legally accurate, impartial information on all options, including keeping the baby, adoption, abortion and where to get further help).
- how the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing.
- about the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment.
- how the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour.
- how to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment

You may also find this [Government link](#) information useful.

I hope that the information we have provided gives you the detail you require to make an informed decision as a parent. If you do choose to withdraw your child we will respect your decision.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Robertson
PSHE Lead