



November 2021

Relationships & Sex Education (RSE)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a part of your child's education at Harrogate High School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme (also known as Life Skills). Life Skills 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.

I am writing to let you know that, during this academic year, your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) aspects of this programme. Please see the Life Skills curriculum overview on the Harrogate High School website for further details. The Life Skills programme is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by myself, the senior leadership team and the governing board. All Life Skills teaching takes place in a safe learning environment, with specific Life Skills ground rules and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers and we are always happy to discuss aspects of the curriculum with them. If you would like to find out more about Relationships and Sex Education or discuss any aspects of this, I would urge you to contact me on the email address below.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education up until a specific age (see below), but the overwhelming majority of parents are highly supportive of the Relationships and Sex Education aspects of the programme.

The right of withdrawal (extract from PSHE Statutory Guidelines 2021):

*Parents will not be able to withdraw their child from any aspect of **Relationships Education** or **Health Education**.*

Parents will be able to withdraw their child, following discussion with the school, 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 the age of 16. After that point, the guidance states that 'if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.'

Where pupils are withdrawn from sex education, schools should document the process and will have to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.





If you wish to withdraw your child from some, or all the school's sex education programme please contact me on the email address provided below.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Harvey

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Life Skills Education Lead - Jharvey@harrogatehighschool.co.uk

