

Our Ref: GAT

Monday 8th April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Sex & Relationships Education

You will be aware that all schools in England have to teach a comprehensive Sex and Relationships Education curriculum as directed by the government. This is a crucial part in ensuring that our young people are prepared for life in modern Britain and know how to keep themselves safe and protect their own wellbeing. We teach this through our Personal Development curriculum.

Our curriculum can be viewed on our school website along with our policy which provides the required steps if you wish to withdraw your child from SRE. When we developed our curriculum, following the governments requirement from 2021 that extensive SRE is delivered by schools, we did so in consultation with parents and adapted and changed it based on their feedback. Sessions are age appropriate and continually reviewed, as such the order in which topics are delivered may vary slightly in response to the needs of the year group. They are delivered by form tutors who know your children well.

All SRE teaching will take place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values. Some parts of SRE are compulsory - these are part of the National Curriculum for Science and cover factual biological information about the human body, puberty and sexual reproduction. Parents are not able to withdraw students from these lessons. Parents are also not able to withdraw their children from relationships education – those sessions teaching about different types of relationships and healthy relationships – nor sessions teaching about rights and discrimination of protected characteristics such as sexual or gender orientation. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from other parts of SRE if they wish to do so.

However, we believe that the increasing presence of sexual images and content in social and other media make it important that all young people have a place to discuss pressures, check facts and dispel myths. Even if a child is withdrawn, many pupils will discuss such issues with each other outside the classroom – so, rather than hear about the content second-hand, we hope all children will have the opportunity to take part in our carefully planned and age appropriate sessions.

In the coming weeks year 7 will be learning about puberty. This work follows on from the recent Science topic and is not an area that students can be withdrawn from as it deals primarily with how the body changes in puberty. We do however understand that this may be something you want to explore at home with your child also.

Year 8 will be looking at relationships and how to manage conflict, what different types of relationships are and what makes a healthy relationships. Year 9 will begin learning about sexual relationships, how to stay safe and how to avoid external pressures with a clear emphasis on the laws around consent.

If you have any questions or would like discuss the content delivered please don't hesitate to contact me on 0121 533 3750 or at gemma.tillotson@oldburyacademy.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Tillotson', written in a cursive style.

Mrs G. Tillotson
Assistant Headteacher