

13 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 10 and 11 PSHE: Relationships and Sex education

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Principal: Lorraine Taylor

As a part of your child's education at Hartshill Academy, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme delivered during through our HART programme. PSHE 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 your child's year group will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. RSE lessons will include teaching about: Healthy relationships, including intimate relationships; keeping safe and consent; pregnancy and abortion. Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world.

PSHE education is taught in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. All PSHE teaching takes place will take place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our Hartshill Academy ethos and HART values.

The new statutory guidance that started from September 2020 states that all pupils must take part in all RSE lessons. This means that:

- 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- After that point, the guidance states that 'if the child wishes to receive Sex Education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements to provide the child with Sex Education during one of those terms.'
- Where pupils are withdrawn from Sex Education, schools should document the process and will have to 'ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of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.'

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents; If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please email Miss Wooldridge.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Wooldridge Assistant Principal



Chief Executive Officer: Marion Plant OBE FCGI

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