

29 January 2024

Dear parents and carers

As a part of your young person's education at Carrington School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal Development (PD) programme. This encompasses Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education which is a curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential. It is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. All PD teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and staff receive regular training regarding key topics.

Starting this term, your young person will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) aspect of this programme. The RSE aspects of PD will include teaching about healthy relationships, including friendships and intimate relationships; families; growing and changing, including puberty; personal hygiene; changing feelings; becoming more independent; keeping safe and consent; developing self-esteem and confidence. These topics will be delivered across Key Stage 3 (KS3) and Key Stage 4 (KS4). Students will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world. To support your understanding of the statutory changes that have been introduced from September 2020, please find a copy of the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy on our website [here](#). Furthermore, please click [here](#) for a Secondary School Guide for Parents about RSE and Health Education from the Department for Education (DfE).

Parents and carers can withdraw their child(ren) from the 'sex' elements of RSE only. Please see Section 8 the RSE Policy on our website for more information regarding this. Should this decision be taken, a meeting with the Headteacher, or member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be arranged to discuss. A form (see Appendix 3 of the RSE Policy) needs to be completed indicating this choice, which will be placed on file. **Three terms before they turn 16, a student can opt back in to sex education lessons** against their parents' and carers' wishes. The school has a duty to provide sex education during one of the remaining three terms. **Parents and carers do not have a right to withdraw their child from Health Education, Relationships or any other aspect of Personal Development curriculum. There is no right of withdrawal from National Curriculum Science** which includes elements of sex education such as puberty and reproduction.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers. Therefore, if you would like to find out more or ask any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details below.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Finch

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Subject Leader of PD

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