

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a part of your child's education at Shoreham Academy, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. As part of their personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education lessons, Year 8 take part in a series of relationship and sex education (RSE) lessons.

The purpose of RSE at Shoreham Academy is: to prepare pupils for the physical and emotional changes of growing up; to give them the knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy choices; to build their confidence and skills to deal with situations they may encounter; to help them to stay safe and know where and how to ask for help if needed. At times, carefully chosen external visitors and speakers may contribute to the programme.

I am writing to let you know that, on the next PSHE morning on Thurs 30th January 2025, all year 8 classes will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. As part of this year's RSE, pupils will have a lesson which teaches about female genital mutilation (FGM). They will be taught that FGM is illegal in the UK and that it is also a criminal offence to take a UK citizen abroad for the purpose of FGM (whether it is lawful in the country the girl is taken to). This will be taught in an age-appropriate way in the context of knowing about bodily changes during puberty, being able to use the correct language, keeping safe and feeling confident to ask questions and discuss in a mature and appropriate way. Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world.

PSHE and RSE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website for more detail about our PSHE & RSE curriculum. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

At Shoreham Academy we believe that success for our students can only be achieved when parents and staff work together. With this in mind, all parents will be given the opportunity to understand the purpose and content of our Relationships and Sex Education curriculum by providing examples of resources used in lessons which can be found on Firefly. Parents are also invited to discuss any concerns they may have which will in turn help to develop our curriculum moving forwards.

We would like to welcome any comments that you would like to raise, if these are urgent relating to the content being delivered on the PSHE morning then please email info@shoreham-academy.org where they can be directed to the most relevant person to respond to you

Although parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from all or part of sex education that is delivered as part of our Relationships and Sex education curriculum, it is our aim at Shoreham Academy to encourage parents to understand the value of this education in helping to keep our students safe and to support their social, emotional and physical well-being and development. It is important to note that while parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from sex education which is delivered as part of the Relationships and Sex curriculum, parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from relationships education.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents; recent parental feedback has indicated that the majority of parents continue to be highly supportive of the relationships and sex education programme. If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please do get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Gregory & Mrs Pulling
(PSHE)



Principal: Jim Coupe