

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

Federation Headteacher: Miss Z J Linington

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14 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 8 PSHCE Education Programme

As a part of your child's education at Edward Peake C of E Middle School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic (PSHCE) education programme. PSHCE education 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 your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationship and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme after half term.

These RSE lessons will include teaching about how puberty enables reproduction. These lessons will be blended with the Year 8 Autumn 2 PSHCE objectives. Pupils will have opportunities (as in all PSHCE lessons) to ask questions either within the class or anonymously. The pupils will then continue their Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) lessons in the Summer Term.

Even though it's called 'relationships and sex education,' the focus of the mandatory portion of this programme is on:

- Understanding what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like
- Being safe online
- What makes good friendships and working relationships

This includes topics like sexual orientation and gender identity. It also includes sensitive topics like sexual grooming, domestic abuse and forced marriage. The government requires us to teach this because it believes children are at risk of harm if we don't teach them how to recognise when relationships (including family relationships) are harmful.

The Department for Education also requires us to teach health education, so your child can make good decisions about their own health and well-being. This includes science-based information about adolescence and is designed to teach children about changes to their bodies, including menstruation.

Since September 2020, the statutory guidance for RSE has changed. Parents with children in Key Stage 3 will not be able to withdraw their children from any aspect of Relationship Education or Health Education (which includes learning about the changing adolescent body and puberty).



However, within Year 8 parents have the right to withdraw their child from any aspect of Sex Education (SE). The SE topics in Year 8 will be taught in the Summer Term and will be covering consent in intimate situations; contraception and sexual health. Our sex education programme is tailored to our pupils' age, and physical and emotional maturity. As children get older, they may have questions about aspects of relationships and sex – this can be made worse by misinformation online and from other children if not taught properly. We offer fact-based education to reassure your child and we encourage you to keep your child in this programme and to have conversations at home about this topic.

If you do choose to withdraw your child, you will need to complete the form attached to this letter and return it to your child's form tutor. It is important to consider though that it is better to educate the pupils in an age appropriate manner and in a safe environment. If you'd like more information about pupil withdrawal, please speak to your child's PSHCE teacher about your concerns.

PSHCE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the teaching staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website: <http://www.edwardpeake.beds.sch.uk/> for more details about our PSHCE curriculum. All PSHCE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

For more information on RSE within the primary education phase you may want to visit these websites and discover how you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home.

<https://www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk>

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z7f3cdm> - PSHCE and Citizenship

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Hooper', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Miss D Hooper
Subject Lead for PSHCE

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Reply slip for Miss Hooper – Year 8 PSHCE Education Programme

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS

Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL

Agreed actions from discussion with parents	Include notes from discussions with parents and agreed actions taken.

