

Educate for life

Principal: Mrs Rachel Kitley
26th April 2021

Dear parent/carer,

You will be aware that, as a part of your child's educational experience at Cowes Enterprise College, an Ormiston Academy, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future. We call this our Everyone Matters curriculum (E1M). I am writing to let you know that your child's group takes part in lessons which will focus on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) which is woven throughout each year's curriculum.

Relationship Education Lessons will include pupils learning about: healthy and unhealthy relationships, different types of families, managing online relationships, menstruation and puberty, self-esteem and romance, consent, contraception, managing conflict, sexual orientation and gender identity, marriage and divorce, sexually transmitted infections, sharing explicit images ('sexting'), the effects of pornography on relationship expectations, body image and gender stereotyping, parenting skills, relationship myths, relationship/domestic abuse, forced marriage.

This is part of our school's E1M education programme which is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. For more details about our E1M curriculum offer, please visit the school's website: <https://cowesec.org/curriculum/subjects/e1m/>, here where you can access curriculum overviews by year group to find out about what your child will learn, and when, so you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home. All teaching in PSHE will take place in a safe learning environment and be underpinned by our school ethos and values. A variety of opportunities will be provided for pupils to ask questions in order to prepare them for relationships in the modern world.

Cowes Enterprise College respects the legal right of parents/carers to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme, except for those statutory parts included in the national curriculum for citizenship, P.E., computing and science. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from these lessons, they should put in writing which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in and send this to the academy addressed to the Assistant Principal in charge of the relevant Key Stage.

Before granting any such request the Assistant Principal will discuss the request with parents and, where appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. We will document this process to ensure a record is kept. Our Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education policy is available on our website <https://cowesec.org/admin/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2021/01/RSE-HE-policy-secondary-academies-Sep-2020-21.pdf> If you have any concerns or queries about your child's participation in these lessons, please do not hesitate to contact the academy or your child's class teacher to discuss these.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Kitley
Principal