



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

From late September 2021 all secondary schools in England have a statutory responsibility to deliver Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Whitelands Academy believes that RSE is vital for the personal, social and emotional development of our students. It equips children and young people with the information, skills and values they need to have safe, respectful and enjoyable relationships and empowers them to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.

We believe that all children and young people have a right to holistic, inclusive and needs-led RSE. We believe that through providing high quality RSE, we are upholding the ethos and values of our school and its commitment to equality and celebration of difference.

The information in our RSE policy complies with our statutory obligations to deliver RSE under sections 34 & 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. It will have due regard for the DfE's statutory Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Guidance and other relevant guidance.

Our policy clearly states that parents can withdraw their child from part or all of the sex education element of the curriculum where there are concerns of conflict with values and or religion, unless we feel there are 'exceptional circumstances'. In this case we would work with specific families to better understand the concerns and work to find a positive solution for all everyone. Parents can do this up until 3 terms before the child turns 16.

In planning the RSE programme we have been flexible in our approach to differentiate and personalise for students based on factors such as:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Content missed over Year 6
- Religious background
- Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

It is important to explain that teaching will reflect current law, as it is applied to relationships, so our students understand what the law does and doesn't allow.

We will review the policy on a regular basis to ensure that it is in line with current Government guidance and legislation and to ensure that our RSE programme continues to meet the needs of our pupils.

Here is a link to the RSE expectations and curriculum content which is located on our website.

<https://www.whitelandsacademy.org/about/schools-information/policies-procedures>

Should you have any specific questions, you can contact the school at admin@whitelandsacademy.org and we will get back to you in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Cush

Principal

