



## Relationship and Sex Education Update as at March 3rd 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

In light of changes to requirements for relationships and sex education (RSE), we have worked hard to make sure that our new curriculum reflects:

- Our pupils' age and maturity levels, as well as their cultural and religious backgrounds.
- The values of our school community.
- Every pupil's learning needs.
- What pupils need to know to be safe, ready and respectful in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world.

Life Skills 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 over the next term, your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. RSE lessons 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. Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world.

Life Skills is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the RSE policy on the school's website as well as the curriculum section of the website for more detail. All Life Skills teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, I can be contacted on 0121 533 5858 or at [charlotte.poynton@theedgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.poynton@theedgeacademy.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Poynton

Assistant Principal



### **Key Stage 4 Relationships and Sex Education Parents and Carers Pack 2023**

We have worked hard to make sure that our new Life Skills curriculum reflects the values of our school community. We have assessed what pupils need to know to be safe, ready and respectful in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world. We will ensure we take into account every pupil's learning needs when teaching Life Skills.

We now want to ensure that you are aware of what we are discussing in class and feel confident talking to staff if you have any concerns. These subjects will be approached openly and sensitively and some students may want to discuss some of the issues in further detail. It is vital that we work together and share a common approach to questions raised. I have outlined what we will be covering and why it is important for your child below.

<b>What are we learning about?</b>	<b>Why is it important for students to have open and honest discussions about this?</b>
<b>POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS</b>	To know what positive relationships look and feel like, including how to get help if needed.
<b>PORTRAYAL OF RELATIONSHIPS</b>	To recognise that the media, including pornography, may not reflect real life and the possible impact of this on yours and others' expectations.
<b>FAMILY LIFE</b>	To know what makes a successful family, including your rights around adoption, fostering and fertility treatment.
<b>FORMING AND MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS</b>	To know the signs and the impact of relationship abuse and how to get support.
<b>CONSENT</b>	To understand the social, emotional and legal importance of informed consent and how capacity to consent can be impaired by drugs or alcohol.
<b>CONTRACEPTION AND PREGNANCY</b>	To learn about the risks of unprotected sex and how to safely use different forms of contraception. To explore the different pathways for dealing with unintended pregnancy.
<b>PEER PRESSURE</b>	To understand the feelings and pressure that the need for peer approval can generate
<b>ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS</b>	To establish clear personal boundaries around those aspects of their lives they wish to be private.

This curriculum is LGBT+ Inclusive and while we try to explore all views sensitively, we will not tolerate prejudiced or discriminatory language.

The full programme can be found in our RSE policy at [www.theedgeacademy.co.uk/policies](http://www.theedgeacademy.co.uk/policies). Graphic overviews of what we cover can be found on the Life Skills home learning page at <https://www.theedgeacademy.co.uk/learning-from-home-life-skills/> and example resources are listed below each overview.

We welcome any input from parents and carers, if you want to discuss any of this in further detail I can be contacted on 0121 533 5858 or [charlotte.poynton@theedgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.poynton@theedgeacademy.co.uk)