



Dear Parent/Carer

July 2020

As a part of your child's education at Sutton Community Academy we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive 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. The subject is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive, safe and healthy relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. PSHCE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. All PSHCE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

As you may already be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, will soon be forming part of the National Curriculum. This change begins as of September 2020.

Schools are required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for RSE, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered. As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents; recent parental feedback has indicated that the overwhelming majority of parents continue to be highly supportive of the relationships and sex education programme. Unfortunately, due to the current crisis our planned parent / carer information evening can no longer take place. In its place you will be able to find a power point, along with our policies and procedures, explaining PSHCE and the changes on the school website. Please take a few minutes to read through this and if you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please contact Marie Dymond (Head of PSCHE) on the email address below.

You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

We are confident that you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the new PSHCE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all of our students. We are looking forward to sharing further information in due course.

You are welcome to contact me to discuss the programme further.

Yours sincerely,

*Marie Dymond*

Head of PSHCE ([marie.dymond@suttonacademy.attrust.org.uk](mailto:marie.dymond@suttonacademy.attrust.org.uk))