

09 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you in order to give you some further clarification in relation to your child's participation their weekly Personal Development lessons. Embedded in the government-prescribed curriculum your child will engage in some lessons that focus on the relationships they will encounter throughout their life (RSE).

Throughout the academic year, year 7 will be focusing on:

- The importance of friendships
- How to form healthy friendships and relationships
- How to maintain positive and healthy relationships
- How to identify unhealthy and unstable relationships
- The roles of responsibilities of families

Throughout the academic year, year 8 will be focusing on:

- The nature and importance of marriage
- How to deal with the breakdown of relationships including marriage
- Appropriate language when referring to the LGBTQAI+ community
- Understanding what the appropriate expectations of having a girlfriend or boyfriend are

Throughout the academic year, year 9 will be focusing on:

- What intimacy is and different levels of intimacy
- What consent is, and the law surrounding consent
- An understanding of what contraception is and some examples
- The consequences of unprotected sex including unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- The media and its portrayal of relationships
- Sexual orientation and its diversity

Throughout the academic year, year 10 will be focusing on:

- Forms of abuse in relationships and how to seek help in an abusive relationship
- Porn and the laws surrounding revenge porn
- An understanding of consent and assessing the readiness of yourself and others in engaging in a sexual relationship
- How to manage relationship breakdown and how to be resilient in regard to changes in relationships
- What abortion is and the laws surrounding abortion
- Understanding fertility issues that people may face in relationships
- Understanding why people may choose to adopt or foster children

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You cannot withdraw your child from Health Education or the Relationships Education element of Relationships and Sex Education, because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe. If you do not want your child to take part in some or all of the Sex Education lessons delivered in school, you can arrange a meeting with Mrs Jefferson (Assistant Headteacher) and Miss Donoghue (Head of Personal Development) to discuss this further.

All lessons will be delivered in a sensitive manner with regard for family, religious and moral beliefs. If you have any queries or need further clarification please contact [bdonoghue@castlehall.com](mailto:bdonoghue@castlehall.com)

Yours sincerely,



Miss B Donoghue  
Head of Personal Development

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