



October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RSE Curriculum – Parental Consultation

The new RSE curriculum guidance was launched by the DfE in June 2019 to become compulsory from September 2020, this now means that all Schools and Academies are by law required to deliver this framework.

The guidance states that from September 2020, **all schools** must deliver Relationships and Health education including puberty in Primary schools and Relationships and Sex education in Secondary schools. The purpose of the upcoming curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. The program of study is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, supporting them to thrive in modern Britain.

We have worked hard to ensure that the RSE curriculum delivered here at Oasis Academy Don Valley compliments and builds on our existing Science, RE and PSHCE curriculum as well as aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) that have always been an important part of our curriculum. We see the new aspects of the RSE curriculum as a fantastic opportunity to build on our curriculum around areas such as respect for different cultures, diversity, tolerance, and inclusion of the diverse groups in our society.

You do have a right to withdraw your child from the sex education elements of RSE up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, the right to withdraw goes to the student. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at either primary or secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all students to be taught. However, we are confident you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the new RSE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all of our students.

We have now started the consultation process for the RSE curriculum. We initially started this with the consultation of a working group to review our policies, lessons, and schemes of learning. This working group was chosen to reflect our Academy context and included HLTAs, Teachers, HUB council members and Pastoral managers from a range of cultural and religious backgrounds. We are now able to start phase two of our consultation process, which is to ask parents their views, concerns and questions on the RSE statutory framework. This will help us to further develop a RSE policy which works within our diverse community and considers a range of viewpoints.

Parents and carers are invited to submit responses to the consultation questions by completing a survey which has been sent to parents via text message and is also available on the Academy website.

Prior to completing the survey, we ask that you read our Relationships and Sex Education Policy on the Academy website, or alternatively obtain a hard copy from the Academy office. The deadline for responses is 15th October 2021

If you would like further advice, information please don't hesitate to contact myself via email (Victoria.fitzpatrick@oasisdonvalley.org).

Best wishes,
Mrs V Fitzpatrick
(Assistant Principal)

