



ORMISTON SIX VILLAGES ACADEMY



September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As part of our commitment to providing a holistic education at Ormiston Six Villages Academy, we are dedicated to supporting your child's personal well-being and development. To achieve this, we deliver a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) education program. This program equips students with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead healthy, safe, productive, and fulfilling lives, both now and in the future.

I am writing to inform you that during this academic year, your child will participate in lessons on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). These lessons have been designed in accordance with the Department for Education's (DfE) statutory guidance on Relationships, Sex, and Health Education.

Topics Covered in the RSE Curriculum:

Years 7 and 8:

- Healthy and unhealthy relationships, including bullying and peer pressure
- Understanding different family structures
- Managing online relationships
- Menstruation and puberty
- Building self-esteem
- Consent, body image, and addressing gender discrimination
- Conflict resolution in relationships
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and divorce
- Sharing explicit images ("sexting")
- Grooming and friendships

Years 9, 10, and 11:

- Continued exploration of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Managing online relationships
- Self-esteem and romantic relationships
- Consent and contraception
- The impact of pornography on relationship expectations
- Addressing sexual harassment
- Parenting skills
- Relationship myths
- Recognizing and addressing domestic abuse
- Conflict management
- Marriage, divorce, and forced marriage
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Responsible handling of explicit images ("sexting")
- Risks associated with sexual activity
- Fertility and family planning options

Principal: Mr Paul Slaughter

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These lessons are an integral part of our PSHE program, which is carefully delivered to every year group and regularly reviewed by our staff and governing body. For more information on the PSHE curriculum, please visit our website at www.ormistonsixvillagesacademy.co.uk/policies, where you can access our Relationships and Sex Education policy.

We would like to assure you that all lessons are conducted in a safe and supportive learning environment, consistent with the school's values and ethos. Students are also provided with opportunities to ask questions, helping them prepare for relationships in today's world.

At Ormiston Six Villages Academy, we believe in building strong partnerships with parents. To help you continue these important conversations at home, we will share links to helpful resources through our newsletters. Additionally, we will be hosting a Parent Forum later in the year, where you can learn more about our PSHE curriculum and ask any questions you may have.

While we respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child from the sex education component of the RSE program, please note that there is no right to withdraw from relationships education. We believe that the content, covering topics such as family, friendship, and safety (including online safety), is essential for all students. If you wish to withdraw your child from sex education, please submit a written request indicating the specific elements you do not wish your child to participate in, addressed to the Head of PSHE and Citizenship, Mr. Ross Rondel.

Before processing any withdrawal requests, our Head of PSHE and Citizenship, Assistant Principal, or Principal will meet with you and, if appropriate, your child, to ensure your preferences are fully understood and to explain the curriculum's purpose. This meeting will be documented for our records.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's participation in these lessons, please do not hesitate to contact me or our PSHE coordinator.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Rondel', with a long, sweeping underline.

Ross Rondel
Head of PSHE and Citizenship