

7<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: Relationships and Sex Education at BOA**

You will be aware that, as a part of your child's educational experience at Birmingham Ormiston Academy, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future. I am writing to let you know that, throughout the year, your child's tutor group will be taking part in lessons which will focus on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Relationship Education lessons will include students learning about: Healthy and unhealthy relationships, different types of families, managing online relationships, menstruation and puberty, self-esteem and romance, consent, contraception, managing conflict, sexual orientation and gender identity, marriage and divorce, sexually transmitted infections, sharing explicit images ('sexting'), the effects of pornography on relationship expectations, body image and gender stereotyping, parenting skills, relationship myths, relationship/domestic abuse, forced marriage.

This is part of our academy's PSHE education programme which is taught throughout the academy in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. For more detail about our PSHE curriculum offer, please visit the Academy's website, where you can access curriculum overviews by year group and our Relationships & Sex Education Policy. All teaching in PSHE will take place in a safe learning environment and be underpinned by our school ethos and values. A variety of opportunities will be provided for students to ask questions in order to prepare them for relationships in the modern world.

As an academy community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. There will be opportunities throughout the year to find out more about what your child will learn, view the materials and resources being used in lessons and discover how you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home. You will also receive feedback on your child's engagement with and understanding of the programme.

Birmingham Ormiston Academy respects the legal right of parents/carers to withdraw their child from all or part of the RSE programme, except for those statutory parts included in the national curriculum for citizenship, P.E and science. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from RSE lessons, they should put in writing which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in and send this to the academy addressed to the Assistant Principal (Pastoral).

Before granting any such request, Chris Mitchell (Assistant Principal) will discuss the request with parents and, where appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. We will document this process to ensure a record is kept. If you have any concerns or queries about your child's participation in these lessons, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's class teacher to discuss these.

Yours truly



**Alistair Chattaway**

**Principal**

**On behalf of BOA Creative, Digital & Performing Arts Academy**

*NB: The Relationship & Sex Education Policy can be found on the academy website, in the policies section:*

<https://www.boa-academy.co.uk/aboutus/governance-policies-and-ofsted/policies-and-reports>