



9th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

PSHE Curriculum 2020 2021 at Axe Valley Academy

New statutory requirements for the teaching of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) come into force this academic year. At Axe Valley Academy we believe this is a vital part of our role in preparing students for independent adult life and this letter aims to set out how we intend to deliver the curriculum as part of our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) programme.

We have chosen to invest in the Jigsaw PSHE model which is an integrated curriculum that provides high quality PSHE that meets the needs of students, helps them know how to be healthy and happy and underpins their learning capacity and academic success. The programme has undergone extensive parental consultation and been developed alongside teaching professionals in school settings. It fully complies with all statutory requirements for RSHE.

There are 6 units covered in each year, except Year 11, which are:

Years 7 to 10

Being Me in My World
Celebrating Difference
Dreams and Goals
Healthy Me
Relationships
Changing Me

Year 11

Being Me in My World
Dreams and Goals
Healthy Me
Relationships

In Key Stage 3 students will receive one lesson per fortnight of PSHE as part of their timetabled lessons and, in addition, tutors will deliver part of the curriculum in PSHE lessons every Tuesday afternoon. Key Stage 4 tutors will deliver the complete PSHE curriculum in PSHE lessons every Tuesday afternoon.

Our PSHE policy supports the right of parents to request their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16 at which time the child can choose for

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themselves. We have used the Sex Education Forum's definition below to identify lessons that have sex education content in them:

"Sex education is learning about the physical, social, legal and emotional aspects of human sexuality and behaviour, including human reproduction. This includes conception and contraception, safer sex, sexually transmitted infections and sexual health."

Should you wish to discuss withdrawing your child from Sex Education, you are advised to make your request in writing by sending an email to Mrs Ford (PA to Headteacher) at lford@axevalley.devon.sch.uk and we will get back to you to discuss any concerns you may have and consider alternative provision options.

An overview of the curriculum structure at Axe Valley Academy can be found on our website at <https://axevalley.devon.sch.uk/information/pshe/> where you will also find an attachment showing the subject content for all Jigsaw units and a copy of our draft PSHE policy in full.

If you would like to let us know your views on any aspect of the curriculum and/or the draft policy, please email me at rselby@axevalley.devon.sch.uk at your earliest convenience. For your views to be considered and any amendments to be made before the policy is presented to our Governing Body, please reply by Sunday 13th September. If you have any questions or would like to see examples of the resources we will be using, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Kind regards



Rob Selby
PSHE Co-ordinator

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 *What does “statutory requirements” mean?*

A It means that it is required by law. The RSHE and Equality Act are legally-binding.

Q2 *Why are you writing to us about this?*

A It is essential that we recognise life for young people today is very different from our childhood and we want to support parents in navigating this. Additionally, should you wish to express your views on our proposed curriculum structure, content and policy, you have the opportunity to respond.

Q3 *What is the difference between RSE, RSHE and PSHE?*

A PSHE is a title that means Personal, Social and Health Education which we will be continuing to use in school. It covers not only the statutory requirements but other aspects of personal development that we believe are important for young people. RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) and HE (Health Education) are the Government’s terms for different aspects of a child’s education that are sometimes combined to make RSHE.

Q4 *How important is this?*

A Axe Valley Academy will be inspected on how well pupils are being prepared for 21st Century life. RSHE within a comprehensive PSHE programme is an integral feature of your child’s learning and development at Axe Valley Academy and fits within our Core Values.

Q5 *What can I do if I have concerns over the PSHE curriculum?*

A You are welcome to discuss any part of the PSHE curriculum with Mr Selby, the PSHE Co-ordinator. We welcome parental views but the curriculum content will be balanced between these, the school’s values and our legal obligations.

Q6 *Why is it important that all children take part in PSHE lessons?*

A Children need to learn that prejudice and discrimination are illegal, and to treat people with respect. This curriculum also provides additional safeguarding for your child from many of today’s threats to young people.

Q7 *What if I have my own views on the topics covered in PSHE?*

A If parents want to share different views at home, of course they can. The school is also open to teaching different viewpoints, possibly in other curriculum areas e.g. Religious Education.

Q8 *Does the new Relationships Education and RSE curriculum take account of my faith?*

A The subjects are designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. In developing these subjects, the Department for Education worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England.

Q9 *Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?*

A Parents have a right to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, should be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16

Q10 *Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?*

A A thorough engagement process, involving a public call for evidence and discussions with over 90 organisations, as well as the public consultation on the draft regulations and guidance, has informed the key decisions on these subjects. The consultation received over 11,000 responses from teachers, schools, expert organisations, young people and parents – these responses have helped finalise the statutory guidance as well as the regulations that have been laid in Parliament.

Q11 *Will these subjects promote LGBT relationships?*

A No, these subjects don't 'promote' anything, they educate. Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law. The Department for Education expects secondary schools to include LGBT content.