

RSE Letter to Parents

Wednesday 19th October, 2022

Dear Parents,

As a part of your child's education at Felixstowe International College, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential in all aspects of their lives, both now and in the future.

I am writing to let you know that, since September 2021, each student is also required to attend lessons which focus on the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) aspect of this programme. RSE lessons will include teaching about healthy relationships, including friendships and intimate relationships; families; growing and changing, including puberty; personal hygiene; changing feelings; becoming more independent; keeping safe and consent; developing self-esteem and confidence. Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world. PSHE/RSE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly.

Our school's PSHE/RSE policy and an overview of the curriculum at each key stage is available to view on the school's website but should you have any questions, comments or concerns, or requests for further clarification of any parts of the policy, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As the UK Government statement makes clear in the RSE (Secondary) Guidance updated 9 July 2020:

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the government committed to making Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) statutory in all secondary schools, including local authority maintained schools, academies, free schools and independent schools.

This subject has been statutory (compulsory) to teach in all schools from September 2021. Your child has already attended lessons on health and relationships education as part of the broader PSHE programme, but the teaching of RSE, as stipulated by the government, is the more recent aspect of the curriculum that we are keen to deliver with the full knowledge and understanding of all parents.

Felixstowe International College has a strong Christian ethos which underpins all lessons and school activities; with this in mind, students will be given the opportunity to attend RSE lessons later on in the year which will be taught from a clear Christian perspective, built on the foundation of always considering what purpose God has for us and what principles he has given us for relating to him and to each other. This will be in addition to all students being taught in line with national curriculum requirements.

The Government guidance (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/introduction-to-requirements#right-to-be-excused-from-sex-education-commonly-referred-to-as-the-right-to-withdraw>) also states that '*Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE*'. As the school is required to document any withdrawal, parents are kindly asked to put any such request in writing for the attention of the Principal, Mrs Mainprice. Any request for a child to be withdrawn will be respected '*up to and until three terms before the child turns 16*', at which point the child may choose to receive sex education.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. We hope that you will share our enthusiasm for the continued successful implementation of the PSHE/RSE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all of our students.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Rosalyn Green

PSHE Lead

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