

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a part of your child's education at Copleston High School, 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 children the knowledge and practical skills to help them live a safe, healthy, productive life and meet their full potential. Pupils take part in lessons which address topics such as healthy relationships, including friendships; families; growing and changing - including puberty; managing emotions; becoming more independent; keeping safe; developing self-esteem and confidence; and sex education lessons.

PSHE lessons are taught to years 7-9, and currently delivered to year 11 once a week during registration. It is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website: <https://www.copleston.suffolk.sch.uk/page/?title=Personal%2C+Social%2C+Health+and+economic+education&pid=283> for more detail about our PSHE curriculum. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

We appreciate that PSHE and RSHE covers some challenging topics. It is now a legal requirement for every child to have access to health and relationships education, however, you do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education. The only exception to this is the biological aspects of sex and reproduction education which are covered as a compulsory part of the science curriculum. Further information on these statutory topics can be found in the link below which will direct you to the Department for Education's guidance on Relationships and Sex Education.

Department for Education's RSE guidance and statutory curriculum:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1090195/Relationships_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf

Parents can request to withdraw students from the following areas of the curriculum which are related to sex education:

- Contraceptives
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Abortion
- The dangers of pornography and explicit content

As per the DfE advice to teachers (link below), a withdrawal request should be followed by a brief conversation between the school and the parents/carers to weigh up the benefits and drawbacks of withdrawing the child from the topic specified, before the parent or carer then makes their final decision.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

The DfE guidance, (see link below), also stipulates that once pupils turn 15 they have the right to decide themselves whether or not they wish to receive sex education, so withdrawal from a topic will later be reviewed when the pupil reaches 15.

If you are concerned about a topic covered, would like further information, or would like to exercise your right to withdrawal, please add your details and your child's details to the headings below and email this to PSHE@copleston.suffolk.sch.uk.

To request to withdraw, please ensure you complete all the information below –

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW: TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS OR CARERS			
Name of child		Year group	
Name of parent		Date	
Aspect of sex education that you would like the pupils withdrawn from, and reason for withdrawal			
Parent signature			

Warm regards,
Mrs L. Page and Miss B Holt
PSHE@copleston.suffolk.sch.uk
PSHE leads