



10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may already be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is now a compulsory part of our Personal Social Health and Economic Education curriculum.

The purpose of our RSE curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect which will encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life.

Given the sensitive nature of the subject, parents/carers have a right to withdraw their child from the 'sex education' element of RSE **only** up until their child is 15. Ely College defines Sex Education as "*The teaching of emotional, social and physical aspects of sexual activity, sexual health and sexually motivated behaviour.*" What this looks like in practice is outlined below. Most Sex Education lessons happen in the summer term, when the pupils are more emotionally mature.

Year 7 – No Sex Education.

Year 8 – Contraception. (1 lesson)

Year 9 – Sexually Transmitted Infections. (1 lesson)

Year 10 – Use of sexual images. (1 lesson, in late Spring)

As part of our school's wider PSHE programme, your child will receive lessons or workshops on sex education at an **age appropriate** level as outlined above. These sessions are delivered by trained specialists and are done so with great sensitivity. More details on the topics we cover can be found on the CMAT website, on the PSHE Curriculum Map. This can be accessed via this link: <https://www.cmatrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CMAT-Lifeskills-2019-2020-Curriculum-Map.pdf>

Requests for withdrawal should ONLY be made formally via email to **both** the Principal, and myself as head of PSHE, attaching the form at the end of the CMAT RSE policy outlining reasons for withdrawal. This is available on the CMAT website, using the following link: <https://www.cmatrust.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CMAT-Sex-and-Relationship-Education-policy-from-2020.pdf>

I am hopeful that you will understand the importance of teaching children to develop safe and healthy relationships, including sexual relationships. At all times within PSHE, our focus is on UK law and medical fact. This extends to the laws around sexual activity and maintaining good sexual health.

If you do choose to withdraw your child, they will be set independent careers work in another room during the Sex Education lesson.

You are most welcome to contact me via email: [lyoung@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:lyoung@elycollege.co.uk) should you wish to discuss the programme further.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Young  
PSHE Co-ordinator