

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to inform you about the upcoming content in our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum and your rights in regard to your child's participation in these lessons. At Walthamstow School for Girls, we aim to equip our students with the knowledge they need to develop healthy, respectful relationships and to understand their physical, emotional, and social well-being.

As part of our curriculum, in accordance with the Department for Education's statutory guidance, Relationships Education is compulsory in all primary and secondary schools in England. This includes teaching about topics such as families, friendships, and respectful relationships.

We hope you find this quote from the [Government RSE guidance](#) reassuring:

The aim of RSE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships.

This will help pupils understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed.

Effective RSE does not encourage early sexual experimentation. It should teach young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. It enables young people to mature, build their confidence and self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity. Effective RSE also supports people, throughout life, to develop safe, fulfilling and healthy sexual relationships, at the appropriate time.

Your Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

While Relationships Education is mandatory, you have the right to request that your child be withdrawn from the non-compulsory aspects of sex education delivered as part of RSE. This right applies up until three terms before your child turns 16. At that point, if your child wishes to receive sex education, they will have the right to opt back into the lessons.

Department for Education's guidance:

"Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Before granting any such request, the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher will discuss the request with you to ensure that your wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum."

If you would like to make a request to withdraw your child from the sex education component of RSE, please complete the [withdrawal request form](#). The Deputy Headteacher, Ms. Futo, will be in touch with you to discuss your decision and provide more information on the lessons your child would miss.

Please note that there is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education, as these are essential components of preparing students for life in modern Britain. Topics covered in Relationships Education focus on building healthy, respectful relationships, the importance of consent, and staying safe online.

For further information on the RSE curriculum and what it entails, you can visit the [Department for Education's guidance page](#).

Thank you for your continued support of our school and your child's education. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.