

**Principal: Mrs Ruth Craven**

Email: [mail@copleyacademy.org.uk](mailto:mail@copleyacademy.org.uk)

Web: [copley.greatacademies.co.uk](http://copley.greatacademies.co.uk)

25 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: Relationships and Sex, Health Education (RSHE) at Copley Academy**

At Copley Academy our PSHE curriculum, called GREAT Lives, is delivered to students during form time and off-timetable deep learning events. GREAT Lives has the aim of developing key life skills that will enable students to become responsible and proactive citizens of the future. GREAT Lives is not only underpinned by our core school values, but the statutory framework and guidance around PHSE (Personal, Health, and Social Education), SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) and British Values.

Another aspect of the GREAT Lives is the relationships and sex, health education (RSHE) curriculum. We know that this is a sensitive subject, and we want to reassure you that we will be handling the content in a way that is appropriate for your child's age and level of understanding whilst achieving the Department for Education's requirements for RSHE. Previously Copley Academy has participated in sexual health awareness weeks, STI and contraceptive education events and child criminal exploitation workshops.

Our curriculum was created with great thought for the needs of our pupils and the concerns of their families, and we're proud of what we've developed. We're happy to answer any questions you have about our curriculum, which is published on the Academy's website. We believe all parents should be well-informed about what their children are learning.

Even though it's called 'relationships and sex, health, education,' the focus of the mandatory portion of this programme is on:

- Understanding what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like, including sexual grooming, abuse and forced marriage,
- Being safe online and with social media,
- What makes healthy friendships and working relationships.

The government requires schools to teach this because of the potential harm that could come to young people if we do not explain to them how to recognise when relationships become harmful.

Our programme is fact-based and aims to help pupils make smart, safe decisions about their sexual health and well-being. It does not encourage early sexual experimentation. Sex may be a confusing topic and misconceptions about it can have an impact on young people's health and well-being. We want to work with all our parents and families to help our pupils be smart and stay safe.

Should you wish to discuss RSHE further please feel free to contact me by emailing, [mail@copleyacademy.org.uk](mailto:mail@copleyacademy.org.uk). This includes if you have concerns about your child participating in all areas of our GREAT Lives Curriculum.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs P Ross**  
**Associate Assistant Principal**