



BELLE VUE
GIRLS' ACADEMY

Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Parent Consultation Response

March 2020

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Introduction

The government has made changes to the RSE curriculum from September 2020¹. Like all schools, Belle Vue Girls' Academy has consulted with parents to obtain their views on the proposed curriculum. The views of parents were sought particularly on the following two points:

- Are all the topics set out on our proposed curriculum plan age appropriate?
- Is our proposed curriculum plan delivered by the most suitable people?

Consultation Exercise

The consultation process involved the following activities:

- Parents were invited to attend a meeting at the academy on 11th December 2019 in which the proposed policy, curriculum delivery schedule (including method of delivery) and frequently asked questions presentation were shared with parents and explained in detail. The meeting ran twice, once in the morning and once in the evening to maximise opportunities for parents to attend.
- Following the above meeting, from 16th December 2019 to 10th January 2020, the documents and presentation were available to view online on the academy website. The academy wrote to parents to inform them of this, and invited them to share their views by emailing the dedicated consultation email address.
- Two further meetings were held on Wednesday 26th February 2020, which mirrored those held on 11th December with the addition of the feedback received from parents during the consultation process.
- 6 parents attended the consultation meetings on 11th December 2019.
- 6 parents responded by email during the online consultation period.
- 15 parents attended the consultation meetings on 26th February 2020.

Summary of Responses

Responses provided at the face to face meetings:

- Some parents suggested that the session on drug awareness and mental health, scheduled for year 9, should be delivered earlier.
- Some parents requested that the individual lesson content for the sex education sessions should be shared with parents so that they know exactly what will be taught, to ensure that if they were to opt out, they could make arrangements to deliver it themselves.
- Some parents questioned whether Religious Studies was compulsory, as the subject was included as part of the RSE delivery schedule so it could be confusing if it was not.
- All parents stated at the end of the meetings that despite their initial concerns about the government changes to the RSE curriculum, they were now happy with the academy's plan and felt reassured about the content and delivery methods.

Responses provided by email during the online consultation period:

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

- Of the 6 responses received, 5 were from parents requesting that their child be withdrawn from all RSE lessons. 2 of the 5 provided reasons for their request which were due to religious beliefs and not knowing what will be taught.
- 1 response said that we should not talk to pupils about RSE.
- No comments were made about our proposed curriculum delivery schedule, delivery method or the RSE policy.

Next Steps

The next steps following the consultation period are detailed below:

RSE Proposal - Amendments

- The academy will consider whether some aspects of drugs awareness and mental health can be covered earlier in Key Stage 3.
- Individual session plans for the sex education lessons will be made available on our website in September 2020 for parents to view.
- The curriculum map will make clear which elements of RSE may be covered in non-compulsory subjects. This will ensure parents are fully informed of where RSE is covered outside of the core RSE offer.

Communication with Parents

- The final RSE curriculum plan (including delivery method) will be published on the academy's website. Parents will be alerted to this, ready for teaching in September 2020.
- Each parent who contacted the academy via email during the online consultation was contacted directly by telephone and invited to attend the meeting held on the 26th February 2020, and further emails from parents will continue to be monitored and questions answered.

Ratifying Policy

- The proposed RSE Policy will be submitted for governor ratification on 12th May 2020. Once this process is complete, a copy of the approved policy will be placed on the academy's website.