



BELLE VUE
GIRLS' ACADEMY

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

Parent Consultation Response

April 2023

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Introduction

Statutory changes to RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) were introduced by the government in September 2020. Following this, Belle Vue Girls' Academy initially consulted with parents and carers in March 2020.

After a review the delivery of the RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) programme at Belle Vue, a further consultation took place in the Summer Term of 2023.

The aim of the consultation was to seek again parental views on the following two questions:

- **Is the delivery of the RSHE age-appropriate?**
- **Are the methods used to deliver RSHE the most appropriate?**

Consultation exercise

- All parents/ carers were invited to face-to-face meetings with the Deputy Head (Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development) and Interim Deputy Headteacher (Culture and Ethos) on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at either 9am or 2pm. No parents/ takers took up this invitation.
- Following this, all parents/ carers were emailed a Sway newsletter on 2nd March 2023 with links to the new RSHE programme and inviting feedback.
- A link to an online form was provided on the Sway newsletter which allowed parents/ carers to give their feedback on the two questions regarding the appropriateness of delivery.
- ***No responses were received, therefore the new RSHE programme was accepted without change or adaptation by parents/ carers.***

Right to withdraw

- The Sway newsletter sent to parents/ carers on 2nd March included a link to an online form which gave parents the opportunity to request the right to withdraw their children from sex education as delivered through RSE, in line with the DfE statutory guidance on [Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education](#).
- 41 parents/ carers responded, indicating that they wished to withdraw their children from the sex education elements of RSE.
- All 41 parents/ carers were invited to a face-to-face meeting with the Deputy Head (Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development) and Interim Deputy Headteacher (Culture and Ethos) on Wednesday 19th April 2023 at either 8am or 2pm.

Summary of responses

- During the meetings, parents/ carers were presented with a current overview of RSHE coverage across the curriculum and across Personal Development as well as information on delivery methods/ mode of delivery. Statutory guidance was also flagged up.
- The meetings highlighted the delivery of RSHE themes both by BVGA staff and also by external specialists.
- 10 parents/ carers attended these meetings. Of the 10 parents/ carers who attended, eight wished their children to be withdrawn from all, or some elements of sex education as part of RSE. Two parents decided that they did not wish their children to be withdrawn.
- The 31 other parents/ carers who indicated that they wished to request withdrawal from the sex education elements of RSE, but who could not attend the meeting, were contacted by telephone. The request was discussed and all the children have been withdrawn from all or some of the sex education elements of RSE, in line with the DfE statutory guidance on [Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education](#).
- Note was taken of the need to contact students at an appropriate point where there had been parental requests for withdrawal in line with the following DfE guidance:

47. Once those discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, the school should respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.

Next steps

- Records of the parental withdrawal requests were logged for future reference.
- Further communication will be held with parents/ carers generally regarding RSHE as required.
- Continued monitoring of parental requests beyond the consultation.
- Review of the RSE policy. New version to be ratified by governors.
- Planning of RSHE delivery for 2023-2024
- Implementation of new guidance/ government documentation as it is produced.