



Head Teacher – Damien Parrott
Bounds Green Road
London
N11 2QG
Tel: (020) 8888-8824
Fax: (020) 8365-7986
www.boundsgreenschool.co.uk

Relationships Education – Right to Withdraw Letter for Parents and Carers

Part 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

We believe that promoting the health and well-being of our children is an important part of their overall education. We do this through our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme. This covers many topics including all kinds of relationships.

As you may already be aware, Relationships Education is to become statutory in all primary schools from the Summer Term 2021. We are pleased that this decision has been made as it means that all children will be able to learn about different relationships, different families, growing up, puberty and their changing bodies.

Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education objectives which link to the national curriculum as part of their science learning. This includes all the information on puberty and how the human body changes.

The PSHE Association states,

‘Teaching about puberty before children experience it is essential to ensure that pupils’ physical, emotional and learning needs are met and that they have the correct information about how to take care of their bodies and keep themselves safe.’

Ofsted’s PSHE lead, Janet Palmer HMI, has said:

‘If pupils are kept ignorant of their human, physical and sexual rights... they are not being adequately safeguarded.’

In order to keep pupils safe, it is vital that they learn about puberty before it happens. NHS advice states that puberty can begin as early as 8 for girls and 9 for boys. We aim to teach children about puberty in Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

Parent/carers have the right to withdraw their child/ren from any sex education lessons that go beyond that of the science national curriculum (Years 5 and 6). The Government has decided there is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education as the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety and through technologies such as mobile phones) – are important for all children to be taught.

The right to withdrawal letter is on our website and should be filled in in advance of the non-statutory sex education lessons being taught. This letter should be emailed or handed in to the office. The class teacher and a senior leader will explore your concerns and discuss these with you.

Any children who are withdrawn from the Sex Education lessons will have to be provided with alternative learning in another learning space.

Our Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum is fully inclusive to meet the needs of all our pupils. We cover the following objectives:



- being a good friend
- kind and unkind behaviours, including bullying
- teamwork and resolving disputes
- feelings we experience and how to discuss our feelings
- self-worth and self-respect
- important people in our lives
- consent and autonomy
- secrets and surprises
- growing up and physical and emotional changes to our bodies
- different families and relationships
- how babies are made and how babies are born
- differences, similarities and stereotypes
- body image

We fully believe that all children should learn about these important life skills in an open, honest and safe environment. We also believe that they should be taught in an age-appropriate and engaging way. We encourage parents and carers to view our Relationships Education Policy and scheme of work. We believe it is important to have a strong partnership with parents and carers and will always communicate what is being taught when. We will also provide any further reading or support for any parents and carers wishing to discuss the objectives taught with their children at home.

If there is any part of the curriculum that you have concerns or queries about, please call the office for an appointment. We will encourage you to come in and speak with us.

Many thanks

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Part 2

I _____ Parent of _____ in class _____

Confirm that I wish to withdraw my child from the following Relationships and Sex Education curriculum modules:

(SLT member to specify which modules)

I can confirm that I have:

- Read the RSE Policy
- Watched and evaluated the relevant module resources including the videos
- I assume full responsibility for the teaching of my child with respect to this aspect of their education including any safeguarding and child protection responsibilities that may be connected to this topic.
- I understand that my child may learn about aspects of this module from his/her peers.
- I understand that this secondary information may misinform my child on the topic.
- I understand that the school cannot be held responsible for the transfer of learning or misinformation between children.
- If this occurs I assume full responsibility for addressing these misconceptions.
- I understand that if a misconception held by my child puts my child or any other child at non urgent risk, the school will contact and inform me.
- I understand that if the safeguarding issue is an urgent risk or it is clear that the persist risk because the parent has failed to adequately support the child with the issue, the school will take such action as is necessary to secure the safeguarding of all children including your child and this may include direct teaching according to the RSE curriculum as part of our safeguarding duty.

