



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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3rd December 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Re: Year 9 Personal Development Lessons Unit 3

For students to thrive in an increasingly complex and diverse world, they require the confidence, knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their lives independently. An effective personal development curriculum enables our students to develop the attributes they need to stay healthy, be safe, prepare them for life and work as productive citizens in modern day Britain.

In Unit 3, Year 9 students will be covering some of their Relationships and Sex Education learning. Relationships and Sex Education has always been an important part of a young person's education and from September 2020, the Department for Education (DfE) have made the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education \(England\) Regulations 2019](#).

The Relationship and Sex Education lessons will take place during morning registration and DEAR time, commencing Wednesday 8th December and running for six academy weeks. Students will be covering the following topics with their tutor:

- **What are the characteristics of a positive and healthy intimate relationship?** In this lesson students will examine the importance of mutual respect, loyalty, trust, shared interests and friendship.
- **Why do people enter into sexual relationships?** In this lesson students will identify the positive reasons for intimacy, but also have the opportunity to explore how sometimes people can feel pressured into sexual relationships.
- **What is meant by consent and what are the laws surrounding consent in a sexual relationship?**
- **What are the positive reasons for delaying sexual relationships and how to be assertive when expressing your wishes in a relationship?**

- **What is female genital mutilation?** Students will learn what FGM is, why FGM happens and how this practice is against the law.

Students will also have a separate lesson with Mrs Caples, Head of Safeguarding, to learn about contraception. Students will learn about the different types of contraception and the reasons for using contraception.

We fully recognise that these topics are sensitive, but we feel that learning about positive relationships is an essential part of our personal development curriculum. To support students in their personal development, all learning will be conducted within student's tutor groups, having established their own ground rules for personal development, to ensure respect is demonstrated when others are speaking or asking questions.

Right to Withdraw your Child from Sex Education Lessons

As a parent/carer you have the right to request to withdraw your child from Sex Education lessons. Please be aware that you cannot withdraw your child from the Relationships or Health Education content of the curriculum. If you would like to withdraw your child from specific Sex Education lessons, please outline your request in an email to me kstafford@magna-aspirations.org so we can discuss the concerns that you have regarding the content of the lessons. Following these discussions, if you still would like your child to be withdrawn, then unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will provide your child with an alternative learning environment for the duration of the personal development sessions. Your child will then rejoin their class for the other topics being taught.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's head of year, [Miss Ridge](#) or myself if you wish to discuss any of the above.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Stafford
Assistant Principal