



16th July 2020

Dear Parent /Carer

As a part of your child's education at The Garibaldi School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education programme; this is known as Personal Development at The Garibaldi School. Personal Development is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

A key element of our Personal Development curriculum is Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). From September 2020 the Government has made its delivery mandatory as part of statutory guidance. Parents and carers do have the right to withdraw students from RSE sessions, where alternative provision will be provided for those students on other aspects of Personal Development. For more information, please see the Government guidance on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

At The Garibaldi School RSE lessons are delivered from Year 7 all the way through to Sixth Form, and will include teaching age-appropriate topics about:

- **Year 7:** Healthy relationships, friendships, staying safe online, family dynamics
- **Year 8:** Teenage family life, romantic relationships, marriage and contraception
- **Year 9:** Risks involved in sexual relationships, consent, HIV and AIDS, LGBT, marriage breakdown and domestic abuse
- **Year 10:** Child Sexual Exploitation, sexting and the law, different types of contraception, different STIs and their effects, teen pregnancy
- **Sixth Form:** Consent, STIs and contraception, the life changes involved in having children, sex and the law for 18 year olds, sexting, sex and the importance of age, pornography vs. real-life sex

Students will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world. Personal Development is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website: <https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk> choosing the Personal Development <https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/page.php?d=pshce&p=intro> link under subjects, for more details. All Personal Development teaching takes place in a safe learning environment, usually delivered by mentors, and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

As a school, we have worked hard to ensure that the following are taken into consideration and embedded into our school curriculum:

1. Our values of equality, inclusion and respect for all students and communities;
2. Age-appropriate information, as well as the consideration of maturity levels, their cultural and religious backgrounds;
3. Every students' learning needs including special educational needs
4. What students need to know in order to live healthy lives and stay safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world.

We would like to invite you to take part in a Parent Consultation on our RSE curriculum. The consultation has been published on The Garibaldi School website under 'Subjects/ Personal Development' <https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/page.php?d=pshce&p=intro>. Here you will find a copy of this letter, a copy of The Garibaldi School RSE Policy including the long term curriculum plan, as well as a link to the online [consultation form](#). Paper copies of the consultation document are available by request.

The consultation will open on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July** and the deadline for responses is **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August**. We will consider responses to the consultation ahead of the return to school on Tuesday **1<sup>st</sup> September**.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents; recent national parental feedback has indicated that the overwhelming majority of parents continue to be highly supportive of the relationships and sex education programme. If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact myself or the Senior Leadership Team with regards to the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum.

Yours faithfully

*A Bleasdale*

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