

Alderbrook School

Blossomfield Road
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 1SN

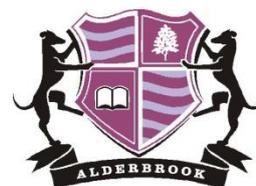
TEL: 0121 704 2146

FAX: 0121 711 4123

EMAIL: office@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

WEB: www.alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

Company registered in England & Wales no 07687619



REK/ZMOS

18 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Curriculum. Early Adopter school for 2019 delivery

I would like to thank all parents/carers for your overwhelming support for our Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum following our questionnaire and consultation. Thanks also to those who attended our evening meeting in the Summer Term, and for your kind comments and enthusiastic participation.

Alderbrook School has been delivering aspects of this programme for many years, however, we are updating our schemes of work for teaching from September 2019, giving us a year to evaluate the curriculum, and make sure students have the highest quality experience in readiness for the deadline for statutory delivery, September 2020. Our form tutors will be teaching the programme, as they will be the teachers who have a pastoral role to support your child.

We have reflected upon your comments and we are pleased to keep you updated in this letter, including some of the adaptations we have made:

You wanted to know if we delivered lessons around helping students to understand differences in terms of learning disabilities.

We are currently developing lessons that will address this sensitively, but can confirm that there are assemblies for all our students which focus on understanding and celebrating these differences. Children with learning difficulties will be supported by their form tutors to access the content of the curriculum, as with any subject. Our Student Development Department will support learners where necessary.

You are keen that students learn to 'love themselves' and respect all beliefs, even where they contradict our own.

This is a very important part of our assembly programme, focusing on respect in many contexts. We really liked the emphasis of 'love themselves' and the team who are writing the Health and Well-Being lessons, are ensuring there is an emphasis on personal well-being, and celebrating strengths. All of these lessons are hinged on the school value of 'kindness'.

You were concerned that issues around the dangers of explicit images and sex in the media were not addressed until Year 11.

The laws and issues around taking and sending explicit imagery are taught initially in our Computing lessons in Year 7. We have also ensured that, throughout the Personal and Social lessons, the topic is covered in various different and age appropriate contexts. There is an assembly for all students which will reiterate the laws around sexting. In Year 11 we have programmed a more in depth look at the dangers of sex and the media specifically, which is supported by a local youth engagement team, Urban Heard.

You wanted to know how we were helping students understand other dangers of the internet, including scams, on line security etc.

This was a useful comment, and not particularly referenced in the guidance for this curriculum. However, we felt this was important in terms of staying safe on line, and our Computing Department are considering how they can cover the increasing breadth of these issues in the wider aspects in their curriculum.

You wanted to be sure that we were covering issues around ‘grooming’ and ‘exploitation’.

This is covered extensively, again, in various contexts. Very specifically, in Year 9, Loudmouth Theatre Company run a day’s project with students called ‘Working for Marcus’, focusing on child exploitation, and presented in a very powerful performance showing how a man becomes ‘friends’ with a girl over a period of time, as he grooms her. There are well planned discussion sessions following this performance with the theatre company and our teachers, in classes. In all years, students will analyse what makes a healthy and unhealthy relationship in an age appropriate way, ultimately considering aspects of manipulation, unwanted attention, persuasion and coercion. In Year 7, students analyse the dangers of on line friendships as part of their introduction to ‘Computing’ and also in their ‘Aspire’ lessons.

You asked the question about aspects of Relationships and Sex education being taught in single sex groups, enabling students to ask questions more freely.

We have considered this carefully, and may continue to make changes this year following teacher and student questionnaires. There is an activity, again, led by Loudmouth Theatre Company, for our Year 10s, where students will work in single sex groups to learn about and discuss topics such as safe sex, consent, pregnancy and abortion. There may be times when we arrange for single sex sessions to take place, for example, when we have visits from medical professionals, or teach students about sensitive topics. We are planning to use a range of distancing techniques in the classroom, such as creating a character and discussing topics in the context of this characters’ experiences, which will enable students to raise issues that may be linked to them directly, but in the context of someone else. We are also developing questioning boxes for students to ask questions they feel they cannot vocalise in class.

There was a concern that teachers might ‘influence’ students around topics.

The curriculum is prescribed for us by the Department for Education, and we are obligated to teach all themes within this framework. The teacher’s role is to educate, ensuring that students are well prepared for their futures, and aware of how to stay safe and thrive in an increasingly complex and diverse society, where they will live their lives both in the real and on line worlds. Our emphasis will be upon our school

values: ambition, bravery and kindness. Teachers have been trained to use techniques that will help them to understand what students' think and believe, and then offer correct information such as 'laws', with appropriate advice and support. Should you require more information about the new curriculum, please refer to the 'FAQs' link below, for further advice for parents/carers.

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

Should you have any further questions about this curriculum, please use the 'contact us' page on the school website, directing your questions to any of our team, or myself:

Mr Hawker, Mr D'Arcy: Health and Well-Being

Mrs Batool: Relationships and Sex Education

Mr Griffiths: Living in the Wider World (citizenship, careers and economic education).

Finally, our Relationships and Sex Education Policy can be found on our school website. I attach the current overview for our programme so you can see when we plan to cover the various topics. If you do have any questions about any of the programme for your child, please let us know through the Contact Us page.

Yours faithfully



Ms K Read

Deputy Headteacher