



1st September 2023

Dear Parent /Carer

As a part of your child's education at Meden School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education programme; this is known as Personal Development at Meden 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 have the right to withdraw their child from sex education (but not relationships education), 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://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907640/RSE_secondary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

At Meden School RSE lessons are delivered from Year 7 all the way through to Post 16at Meden College, and will include teaching age-appropriate topics about:

- Year 7: Laws around marriage, positive and healthy friendships, types of bullying
- Year 8: Sexuality, equality, managing peer pressure.
- Year 9: Consent, ending relationships, intimacy without sex.
- Year 10: Violence and exploitation by gangs, sexual harassment, health effects in relationships
- Year 11: Extremism and radicalisation, how stereotypes can cause damage, how drugs and alcohol lead to risky behaviours.
- Meden College: Impacts on attitudes around sexual assault, seeking consent, professional relationships.

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. All Personal Development teaching takes place in a safe learning environment, usually delivered by tutors, 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 student's 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.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and are grateful for the recent feedback on our 2023/24 programme, which is tailored to Meden school. National parental feedback also indicates that the overwhelming majority of parents continue to be highly supportive of relationships and sex education.

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 handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Sylvester'.

Mr M Sylvester

Teacher of Geography

Curriculum Leader for Personal Development

Meden School