



Beyond Expectations

Principal: Mr D Keogh B.Ed. (Hons)
Vice Principal: Mr B Creasy B.Sc (Hons)
Assistant Principal: Mrs L Cooke B.A (Hons)
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November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education previously announced changes to relationships sex and health education (RSHE) following nationwide consultation. All schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements, with further adaptations being made by September 2026. We are keen to share what we are planning with you and understand your views on it. The main change is that RSHE, or PSHE (physical, social and health education) as it's also known, has largely become a compulsory, foundation subject so it is now part of the national curriculum which all schools need to follow and guidelines are in place as to which subjects need to be taught to which year groups.

We have always taught RSHE to our students at The Axholme Academy and are not planning to change our current policies, staffing and lessons. The delivery of RSHE will begin in the coming weeks following the October half term break. Our CS programme, which is taught as a discrete lesson to all students, covers topics such as identity, diversity, healthy friendships, keeping our bodies healthy, ways to look after our mental health, keeping safe on line and relationships and sex educations - this teaching is supported and extended through assemblies, form time activities, themed days and workshops. Our aim is to carefully build on students' understanding of these topics year by year and we do this by using a spiral curriculum to revisit, investigate and discuss topics at a level appropriate to the age, ability and needs of the group.

We are keen to work with you as much as possible in discussing how RSHE is delivered at The Axholme Academy. There may be questions or queries, which we hope you will raise with us. While most of our RSHE is required National Curriculum content now and we are unable to remove any of it, we do want to take on board feedback around how it is taught here and share all the information with you. We are confident that you will share our enthusiasm for the curriculum, which we feel will be of benefit to all our students.

Please take the time to visit our website and read our Sex and Relationships Policy. Our website also shares a summary of our CS curriculum, to help you better understand exactly what your child is learning and on the reverse of this letter I have included a topics table to easily identify what will be taught to each year group.

You do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. However, we are confident you will share our enthusiasm for the successful implementation of the new PSHE curriculum, which we feel will benefit all of our students.

Thoughtful . Involved . Ambitious . Responsible . Aware



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You are welcome to contact me to discuss the programme further via email on ewinder@theaxholmeacademy.com

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Winder
 PSHE Co-ordinator

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Puberty Hygiene	Puberty Hygiene Contraception	Healthy Relationships Contraception Body Image Sexting Domestic Abuse	Healthy Relationships Contraception Consent STI's Pornography Abortion Sex for Pleasure

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