



Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that, as a part of your child's educational experience at West Park Academy, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive taught programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education that gives children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthy, safe, productive and fulfilled lives, both now and in the future.

From September 2020 the Department for Education is making Relationships and Health Education compulsory in all primary schools.

### **What does the new guidance mean?**

The new guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe in the modern world. It also covers a wide range of topics relating to physical and mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and healthy relationships. Learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up will give children and young people the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and will help them take responsibility for their own well-being.

As with all statutory subjects, there is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education or any content from the Science curriculum. This means that pupils cannot be withdrawn from lessons on the Changing Adolescent Body. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all the Sex Education delivered in Year 6 only (conception and birth) following discussions with the Principal.

### **How will this be delivered?**

This guidance will form part of our school's PSHE education programme which is taught throughout the school and is monitored and reviewed regularly.

All teaching in PSHE will take place in a safe learning environment and be underpinned by our school's vision and values. A variety of opportunities will be provided for pupils to ask questions to further their understanding and to find out more about what affects them personally.

### **Suggestions and questions**

It is important that there is an open conversation between parents and school to ensure that the children are given the best provision possible.

We encourage any feedback as well as any questions that you, as parents, may have about the new guidance or coverage.

**Principal: Mrs S Hirst**

West Park Academy, Alderman Leach Drive, Darlington, Co Durham DL2 2GF

**Tel: 01325 380792**

Email: [admin@westparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@westparkacademy.org.uk)

West Park Academy, part of Shared Vision Learning Trust an exempt charity and company limited by guarantee in England and Wales(Registered no: 7659444)

whose registered office is as above.





Further information on the new statutory requirements is available on:

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

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

A draft copy of our RSE Policy has also been uploaded to the school website for your information along with the PSHE Curriculum overview.

Please call school or email [admin@westparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@westparkacademy.org.uk) before 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to ask any questions and/or give views on this new guidance.

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Yours sincerely

Mrs Hirst Principal

Mrs Chambers PSHE Leader

Mrs Judith Gainsborough Chair of Trustees

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