9th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

As a part of your child’s education at Hope High School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education 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.

I am writing to let you know that, over the next few months, starting 16th March 2020, your child’s class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. RSE lessons in year 2020 will include teaching about: Healthy relationships, including friendships and intimate relationships; families; growing and changing, including puberty; personal hygiene; changing feelings; becoming more independent; keeping safe and consent; developing self-esteem and confidence. Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world.

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. All PSHE teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values. We would like to invite you to attend a parent information meeting on Wednesday 25th March 1.15pm-1.45pm to find out more about what your child will learn, view the materials and resources being used in lessons and discover how you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or any part of the Relationships Education, other than learning about reproduction and human development within national curriculum science. However, we would urge any parents and carers considering withdrawing their child from these lessons to consider what is being taught, how it is being taught and how important this education is for all children.

We fully believe that all children should learn about these important life skills in an open, honest and safe environment. We also believe that they should be taught in an age-appropriate and engaging way. We encourage parents and carers to view our Relationships Education Policy and scheme of work. We believe it is important to have a strong partnership with parents and carers and will always communicate what is being taught when. We will also provide any further reading or support for any parents and carers wishing to discuss the objectives taught with their children at home. Any children who are withdrawn from the Relationships Education lessons will have to be provided with alternative learning in another learning space.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents; recent 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, we would urge you to attend the information meeting on Wednesday 25th March and look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

**P Hitchen** **C Baguley**

Mr Phillip Hitchen - PSHE Mrs Colleen Baguley - DSL