

Proposed Updates to the John Kyrle High School RESPECT Curriculum (PSHE & RSHE)

Dear Parents and Carers,

At John Kyrle High School, our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum is known as **RESPECT**. The curriculum aims to help students develop respect for themselves, for others, for their physical and mental wellbeing, for their communities and for the law, preparing them to become confident, healthy and responsible young adults.

Following the publication of the Department for Education's updated Relationships, Sex and Health Education guidance in 2026, we have undertaken a review of our RESPECT curriculum and policy.

We are pleased to report that **our existing curriculum was already largely compliant with the revised statutory guidance**. As a result, only a small number of changes are proposed.

What is changing?

The most significant change is **how** the curriculum will be delivered.

From September 2026, RESPECT will move from registration periods into **dedicated one-hour lessons every fortnight** for students in Years 7 to 10.

We believe this change will provide students with more meaningful curriculum time, allowing for greater discussion, reflection and high-quality learning. It will also ensure greater consistency in delivery across the school.

Alongside this change, we have reviewed our curriculum resources to ensure they continue to reflect current safeguarding priorities and best practice.

What has stayed the same?

The content of the curriculum has changed very little.

No new curriculum topics have been introduced.

The sequence of learning remains largely unchanged and continues to build progressively from Year 7 through to Year 11. Students will continue to study age-appropriate topics that support their personal development, health, wellbeing, relationships and preparation for adult life.

Parents' legal rights regarding withdrawal from the non-statutory elements of Sex Education also remain unchanged.

Strengthening existing learning

Although the curriculum itself has changed very little, we have strengthened the way in which some important safeguarding topics are delivered.

This includes providing greater depth and discussion around existing curriculum content such as:

- healthy relationships;
- consent and personal boundaries;
- coercive and controlling behaviour;
- online safety;
- violence against women and girls (VAWG);
- recognising abusive and exploitative relationships.

These themes have been part of our curriculum for a number of years. The revised curriculum simply provides more dedicated teaching time to explore them in greater depth and ensure students develop a secure understanding of these important issues.

External speakers

We will continue to enhance our curriculum through carefully selected external organisations where they add value to students' learning.

For example, programmes such as **Chelsea's Choice** provide powerful educational experiences that reinforce our teaching around healthy relationships, coercive control, exploitation and personal safety. These sessions complement our curriculum and are always delivered alongside, rather than instead of, lessons taught by school staff.

Why are we making these changes?

The updated policy ensures that our curriculum continues to reflect current statutory guidance while maintaining the strengths of our existing provision.

The changes will:

- provide dedicated curriculum time for Personal Development;
- strengthen consistency of delivery across all classes;
- allow more time for discussion and reflection;
- reinforce key safeguarding messages;
- ensure our curriculum continues to meet the needs of young people in an increasingly complex world.

Have your say

We value the views of parents and carers and welcome your feedback as part of this consultation.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a high-quality Personal Development curriculum for all students at John Kyrle High School.

Yours sincerely,

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