

January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

At Hartshill Academy, we are dedicated to ensuring that all pupils receive high-quality, age-appropriate education on relationships, sex, and health to help them navigate their lives with confidence, respect, and care for others. Below is a summary of what is covered in each year in the Relationships and Sex Education programme.

### **Relationships and Sex Education Programme**

Year 7 - Growing up, the physical and mental changes, understanding menstruation, healthy relationships, marriage, bereavement, divorce, separation and recognising and preventing bullying

Year 8 - Growing up, the physical and mental changes, consent, healthy relationships and recognising unhealthy relationships, friendships, recognising and preventing bullying

Year 9 - Sex, relationships and the media, social influences, peer pressure, family life and communication.

Year 10 - Sexual health, contraception, pregnancy, sexuality, social influence and pressure, relationships and managing feelings.

Year 11 - Consent and intimacy, sexual health, social media and peer pressure, sexual transmitted infections, and relationships

Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world. The HART programme is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff. All HART programme teaching will take place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school values.

### **Talk Consent Assembly**

In addition to HART lessons, we have partnered with Talk Consent, a reputable organisation with extensive experience delivering education on consent and preventing sexual violence to young people across the country. Talk Consent will be delivering assemblies for pupils from Year 7 to Year 11. These sessions are carefully tailored to be appropriate for the pupils' age. The content is grounded in the reality of pupils' lives and presented in a relatable and sensitive manner. More details will be shared about this when the assembly date has been confirmed.

**Principal:** Miss L Taylor

The statutory guidance that started from September 2020 states that all pupils must take part in all RSE lessons. This means that:

- Parents will not be able to withdraw their child from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education.
- Parents will be able to withdraw their child (following discussion with the school) from any or all aspects of Sex Education, other than those which are part of the science curriculum, up to and until three terms before the age of 16.
- After that point, the guidance states that 'if the child wishes to receive Sex Education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements to provide the child with Sex Education during one of those terms.'
- Where pupils are withdrawn from Sex Education, schools should document the process and will have to 'ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.'

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please contact Assistant Principal Karim El Kanouni.

[Karim.elkanouni@hartshillacademy.org.uk](mailto:Karim.elkanouni@hartshillacademy.org.uk)

### **Addressing Common Concerns**

We understand that some families may have questions or concerns about discussing these topics in school. Evidence shows that high quality relationships and sex education does not encourage children to start sexual activity or become confused about their sexuality. It is more likely to keep young people safe from harm as well as increase the age at which they become sexually active. Talk Consent works with pupils from diverse backgrounds and respects all perspectives, including those rooted in different cultural, religious, and personal beliefs. They do not promote any particular behaviours or have an agenda. Their ethos is built on everyone having the right to safe and positive relationships. They want everyone to understand consent and respect others to prevent the serious, often devastating impact of sexual violence.

### **Supporting Your Child's Learning**

We know that conversations about relationships, consent, and boundaries can sometimes feel challenging, both for pupils and parents. Please consider discussing the material with your child to reinforce what they learn at school. You might find it helpful to ask them about what they learned or any questions they have.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us prepare pupils for a safe, respectful future.

Yours sincerely

Karim El Kanouni

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karim', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.