

### **Procedure on Student withdrawal from Sex Education**

#### **Objective**

This document outlines the process to be followed should a parent request that their child be removed from the sex education element of their Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) lessons.

There is no legal right to be withdrawn from Personal, Social, Health Education in its entirety. The law refers to the legal right to be withdrawn from the sex education aspect of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). If you wish to see the Frequently Asked Questions government information on this topic, please click the link below:

[Relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education: FAQs](#)

The process that this procedure outlines seeks to identify which particular aspects of the curriculum delivery of Sex Education the parents or carers are wishing to withdraw their child from, so that provision can be made for those areas. It is important that parents and carers understand that there is no legal right to withdraw from the Relationship aspect of RSE, nor is there a legal right to withdraw from Science, which covers topics such as reproduction and contraception.

The process consists of several steps, all of which are outlined below. At the conclusion of these steps, being fully informed, if the parent or carer still wishes to go ahead with withdrawing their child from sex education, unless there are exceptional circumstances, this request will be granted by the school. It is important to note that if this request is made within 3 terms of the child's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, the child has a legal right to attend sex education regardless of their parents or carers wishes.

- **Stage 1** – school receives request to be withdrawn from the sex education aspect of RSE, which is delivered as part of the wider PSHE programme of study. This request can be in one of the following formats: by the parent/carers either by phone, email or letter.
- **Stage 2** – school responds within 14 days of receipt of the request with a copy of this procedure and an invitation to a formal meeting.

- Stage 3 - Formal meeting
  - Meeting will be between the parent(s)/carer and the Head of PSHE.
  - The school will outline the general details about the legal rights surrounding this withdrawal request.
  - Parent(s)/carer informed that this is a yearly process and that the application has to happen every year.
  - Parent(s)/carer and the Head of PSHE to look in detail at the course for the relevant year. The meeting will entail an in-depth look at the year's syllabus to identify which areas the student is to be opted out.
  - The school requests that to avoid any misunderstanding it is useful to understand the following:
    - That during the times of withdrawal the student must be completing work; the subject of which will be broadly focused on morals and values.
    - If the work is not completed to a satisfactory standard then normal school policies will apply.
    - The student will, for those lessons that have been identified, have to work on their own but will be supervised in another area of the school.
- Stage 4 – If parent(s)/carer wish to continue with their application for the withdrawal of their child, they must formally write to the head teacher, including a signed copy of the procedure below. Once the written application has been received the appropriate actions will be taken for the agreed lessons.

Updated Sept 2024

-----  
*Please print details clearly*

Parent Name:

Student Name:

Tutor Group:

I have read the procedure regarding the withdrawal of my child from the Sex Education aspects of the Relationships and Sex Education certain curriculum at St Dunstan's School and agree to the terms of this procedure.

Signed:

Date: