October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Consultation on Our New PSHE and RSHE Curriculum

At Northgate School Academy Trust, we are committed to providing a high-quality Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum that equips our pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead healthy, safe, fulfilling and increasingly independent lives.

Following a comprehensive review of our provision, we have developed a new PSHE and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum. This curriculum has been designed to reflect the latest statutory guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, whilst also meeting the highly individual needs of pupils within our school community.

Why Are We Consulting Now?

We recognise that consultation is most effective when all members of our school community have an opportunity to contribute. Due to the changing profile of our cohort and the significant number of families joining us this academic year, we made the decision to undertake this consultation at the beginning of the new academic year. This approach ensures that both existing and newly admitted parents and carers can review the curriculum and share their views before the policy is finalised.

As a school, we continually respond to the evolving needs of our pupils. Waiting until September has enabled us to ensure that our curriculum accurately reflects the needs identified through annual reviews, admissions processes and pupils' current Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), rather than consulting on a model that may no longer fully reflect our cohort.

Our Curriculum Approach

Our new curriculum has been developed in line with statutory requirements and incorporates the NDTi Preparing for Adulthood Framework, supporting pupils to develop skills and knowledge in the four key areas of:

- Employment and future aspirations
- Independent living
- Community inclusion and friendships
- Good health and wellbeing

Alongside this framework, curriculum content has been carefully designed to reflect the outcomes, aspirations and needs identified within pupils' EHCPs. This ensures that learning is meaningful, relevant and supports pupils' preparation for their next stage of education and adulthood.

Queens Park Parade, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 6LR Telephone: 01604 714098
Headteacher: Mrs F Shears
Email: northgateemail@northgateacademy.org.uk Website: www.northgateacademy.org.uk
Company Number: 07734360 Limited Company, Registered in England & Wales

Our curriculum maps identify key themes and topics of local and national significance, including safeguarding, healthy relationships, online safety, mental health and wellbeing, personal development and preparation for adulthood. However, these curriculum maps should be viewed as a framework rather than a fixed programme.

Through Quality First Teaching, robust assessment practices and the graduated response, staff continually adapt content, teaching approaches and learning outcomes to ensure that learning meets individual need. This means that while all pupils access a broad and balanced curriculum, the way content is delivered and explored may differ significantly between classes and individual learners.

Meeting the Needs of a Diverse Cohort

One of the greatest challenges in designing a Preparing for Adulthood (PSHE) curriculum for our school is ensuring that it is appropriate for a cohort with a wide range of ages, abilities, communication needs, learning profiles and life experiences.

At the same time, this diversity is one of our greatest strengths.

Our pupils bring different perspectives, experiences and aspirations which enrich our school community. The curriculum has therefore been designed to be flexible, responsive and inclusive, ensuring that every pupil can access learning at a level that is appropriate to their stage of development, whilst promoting respect, understanding and belonging.

By balancing statutory requirements with personalised learning pathways, we aim to ensure that every pupil receives an education that is both ambitious and relevant to their individual needs.

Consultation Process

We are now inviting all parents and carers to review:

- Our Preparation for Adulthood (PSHE) and RSHE Policy
- Curriculum Overview and Curriculum Maps
- Supporting information and sample resources

These documents can be accessed:

- Via the school website:

We would welcome your feedback and comments by 16th October 2026.

All responses received will be considered as part of our formal consultation process before the curriculum and policy are finalised and presented to governors for approval.

Parent Right to Withdraw

The Department for Education states that Relationships Education and Health Education are statutory subjects, and parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from these areas of learning.

Parents/carers do, however, have the right to request withdrawal from any non-statutory sex education elements that may be taught outside of the National Curriculum for Science. There is no right to withdraw from content that forms part of the National Curriculum Science programme or from statutory Relationships and Health Education.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the curriculum, review materials in greater detail or discuss the right to withdraw, please contact Susan Nembhard, Deputy Headteacher via s.nembhard@northgateacademy.org.uk

Working Together

We believe that effective PSHE education is built upon strong partnerships between school and home. We therefore encourage all parents and carers to review the materials available and share their views as part of this consultation.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to develop a curriculum that reflects statutory expectations, promotes preparation for adulthood and, most importantly, meets the unique needs of every pupil at Northgate School Academy Trust.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Nembhard
Deputy Headteacher