



# WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

*Pride In Achievement*

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July 2026

**Please contact the school if you want help to read or translate this letter.**

Dear Parent / Carer,

As part of the Year 9 Life Studies programme during the next academic year (from September 2026), your child will have lessons in sex education, in accordance with statutory guidance and in line with the school's Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) policy and syllabus.

Sex education is an important part of the RSHE curriculum and it is important young people are given accurate, reliable and appropriate information about relationships, sex and health. They should be equipped with the skills to make appropriate use of the range of information available to them in the wider world and on the internet, and shown how to use this to make appropriate informed choices about sex and relationships. This should happen in a supportive environment, and both at home and in school are the best places for this education to occur.

Whilst the school and specialist teachers are well placed to provide relationships, sex and health education, we acknowledge that parents are the main teachers of any young person and it is a shared responsibility between schools, parents / carers and the community. Whilst I hope that you would recognise that the provision of this programme within school provides an opportunity for us all to work together to promote positive behaviours and attitudes to sex and relationships, I am required to advise you that you do have the right to withdraw your child from the sex education lessons within the Life Studies syllabus, should you wish to do so. Please note that within the statutory guidance there is no right to withdraw from relationships or health education lessons.

Within the programme for Year 9 Life Studies in 2026–27 the following lessons are designated as sex education:

- Term 2 Lesson 1: Different intimate relationships and the factors that influence them
- Term 2 Lesson 2: Consent & readiness vs harmful & unsafe relationships
- Term 2 Lesson 3: Contraception & reproductive health
- Term 2 Lesson 4: Sexually transmitted infections

In the event that any timetabled lessons are lost due to bank holidays or other school closures then some of these lessons may be merged.

I must inform you that as part of the statutory guidance, when a student reaches three terms before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, if they have been withdrawn from sex education by their parents, they are entitled to request that they can return to lessons. Although this will not affect any of the students in Year 9, it will be relevant in future years.

*Kindness*

*Inclusion*

*Respect*

*Excellence*

If you choose to withdraw your child, you will recognise the need to provide appropriate information about these topics at home. Alternative supervision arrangements will be made for any student withdrawn from these lessons and they will be given alternative Life Studies work from a different topic to complete. **Please note that, even if you have withdrawn your child from sex education in the previous academic year, an updated request is required for each year.**

Should you wish to withdraw your child from sex education lessons, then please complete the online form located here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/umqa0xtv7t>

You can also access the form by scanning this QR code:



There is also a link to the form and more information about RSHE and Life Studies available on the school website, including a copy of the school RSHE policy, the full Life Studies syllabus and the resources used in lessons:

<https://www.woodbridgehigh.co.uk/page/?title=SMSC%2C+RSHE+%26amp%3B+British+Values&pid=150>

You also have the opportunity to take part in the annual RSHE consultation meeting that will occur in October, more details regarding this will be sent to you in the new academic year.

If there are any problems with the online form, if you require this letter to be translated, or if you have any further questions, then please contact me via email ([vwardle@woodbridgehigh.co.uk](mailto:vwardle@woodbridgehigh.co.uk)).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Wardle'.

Vicky Wardle  
Life Studies Co-ordinator