

POLICY FOR RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

1. Introduction

Note

In order to comply with the regulations regarding the parents' right to withdraw their children from non-statutory sex education lessons, this policy is published on the school website. It reflects recent Ofsted guidance on the teaching of PSHE.

The syllabus is planned by the member of staff responsible for the delivery of PSHE.

2. Purpose

Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) is an entitlement for all students. It aims to enhance the self-worth and confidence of each individual and encourage mutually respectful relationships and empathy for others, thus supporting students to make positive life choices and experience positive, fulfilling relationships as they go through life.

3. Aims and Objectives: Attitudes and Values

- a) Recognition of the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of both children and adults.
- b) Encouraging respect for moral and spiritual values.
- c) Encouraging respect for oneself and others, loving and being loved, and caring for oneself and others.
- d) Tolerance of different values and attitudes and lifestyles of others.
- e) Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
- f) Development of critical thinking skills as part of decision making.

4. Aims and Objectives: Personal and Social skills

- a) Self-confidence, self-esteem and empathy for others
- b) Managing emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- c) Skills of choice to manage responsibility.

5. Knowledge and Understanding

The following key areas will be covered with students at suitable points in the PSHE curriculum, dependent on their age and stage of maturity.

- a) Emotions and relationships
- b) Physical development
- c) Sexuality, reproduction, sexual health
- d) Information on local and national contraception and sexual health services
- e) Consent
- f) Reasons for delaying sexual activity
- g) The avoidance of unplanned pregnancy
- h) Keeping safe from sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

6. Implementation

RSE will take the form of formal teaching in dedicated PSHE lessons, using videos and suitable, up-to-date publications (see PSHE policy for further details). Whole class discussions are encouraged, with the opportunity for questions to be asked and answered, in a sympathetic, sensible environment. Coverage of key concepts is shown below.

Year Group	Main Theme
7	Love and relationships/ Puberty/ Periods
8	Teenage pregnancy/ Safe sex/ STI's/ consent/ sexting/ pornography
9	
10	Same sex relationships
11	Sex/ consent and rape/ sexuality/ Chem sex

We aim to dispel myths, reduce fear and anxiety, clarify understanding and counteract prejudice by providing accurate teaching about sex and related matters.

RSE may also be delivered in the context of RS and Science, when moral and ethical issues may arise from apparently unrelated topics. There is no parental right of withdrawal in these lessons.

7. Confidentiality

Staff may not offer or guarantee students confidentiality in any matters due to the need to take action in issues related to abuse, underage sexual intercourse, or pregnancy. At the same time, students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

In the case of a student disclosing possible abuse, the School's Child Protection procedures will be followed.

In the case of a student making a disclosure of a possible pregnancy, or seeking individual advice on contraception, the student should be encouraged to know that they can talk to an adult in the school. The school will encourage any student of statutory school age to talk to their parents first.

8. Parental Rights

We prefer parents to play a part in this sensitive area by keeping informed by the school topic area on the web site, so that they can continue discussions at home. However, parents of all students have the right to withdraw their child from sex and relationships education delivered within the PSHE programme. Parents are able to state annually whether or not they wish their child to be withdrawn. This is communicated via letter at the start of the academic year.

We feel that this is inadvisable since it is inevitable that students will discuss the content of the lessons and there is a risk that misinformation and half-truths will be passed on and perpetuated

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RSE policy and programme is the responsibility of the PSHE coordinator and is conducted as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the overall PSHE programme. See the PSHE policy for more information.

Updated by Ruth Ainley (Head)
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