

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

Rationale

This policy was developed in response to Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfES 2000, the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, the National Healthy Schools Programme and Section 80A of the Education Act 2002.

Policy

RSE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. The focus is on everyday sexism, misogyny, homophobia and gender stereotypes. Staff have an important role to play in modelling positive behaviours to support all pupils.

Guidelines

I Aims

The aim of RSE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our RSE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- progress from what has been taught in primary schools in regards to Relationship Education.
- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- understand what grooming, sexual abuse and domestic abuse are and explore the effects of coercive and controlling behaviours.
- address the physical and emotional damage caused by FGM.
- understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity
- understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others.
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary

- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.
- understand what sexual violence and sexual harassment are and the different forms that they may take place in
- understand the benefits of healthy relationships to their mental well-being and self-respect.
- develop a practice of resilience and character for all students
- know how to keep safe using the internet.

2 Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationships Education

RSE is delivered through the Personal Wellbeing, RE ,IT and science lessons at KS3 and KS4. Much of the Sex and Relationship Education takes place within Personal Wellbeing lessons. RSE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The science curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

RSE lessons may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time. All teaching is sensitive and age appropriate in approach and content.

3. Inclusion

Ethnic and Cultural Groups

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some young people it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in mixed groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns. Lessons comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, under which religion or belief are amongst the protected characteristics.

Students with Special Needs

We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary. A list of suitable resources for use in the Learning Support Department is provided by the subject leader for PW. All lessons are taught sensitively and are age appropriate and developmentally appropriate and delivered with reference to the law.

Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality, need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them. Lessons are taught in year 10 in single sex classes to ensure that all the needs of the pupils are appropriately met. All students will understand the importance of equality and respect.

4 Right of Withdrawal

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory curriculum (ie in science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are made aware of this right prior to their child's admission to the school. Parents are welcome to review any RSE resources the school uses.

5 Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

School staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. They are not legally bound to inform parents or headteacher of any disclosure unless the headteacher has specifically requested them to do so.

In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16 year old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- child protection issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the designated safeguarding lead under the school's procedures.
- the young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in a one-to-one situation with an individual student, but in a classroom situation they must follow the school's confidentiality policy.

7 School Nurse

The school nurse provides a weekly drop in facility for students. Whilst the service covers general health the nurse is also able to advise on sex and relationships and refer to the appropriate agency.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed every three years by the subject leader for PW and the senior leadership team.

Dissemination of the Policy

This policy is available on the school website, on request to parents and carers, the LA and Ofsted through the Headteacher.

Date approved by the governing body	
Date for review	September 2022