

# SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

<b>APPLICABILITY:</b>	Academic Staff
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	Currently Under Review
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Assistant Head Pastoral
<b>REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS:</b>	A5 (part)

## AIMS

1. To provide pupils with responsible and relevant Sex and Relationships Education as an integral part of their progress to adulthood by:
  - a. encouraging personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour;
  - b. encouraging self-esteem and self-confidence;
  - c. encouraging respect and consideration for others including issues of consent;
  - d. promoting understanding of sexual attitudes and behaviour; and
  - e. providing support and information for pupils and their parents.

## CONTENT

2. Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) provides knowledge and develops the skills and attitudes with which pupils can manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way. The aim of SRE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is and is not acceptable behaviour in relationships.

### **Knowledge and Information.**

KS3 - Puberty, personal safety, family life and relationships, friendships and love, conception and birth, contraception, HIV/AIDS, safer sex and the law, consent, life stages, different faiths and cultures and sexualities.

KS4 - Birth processes, abortion, genetic inheritance, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, sexual lifestyles, prejudice and stereotyping, consent, the effect of the media and pornography on shaping sexual attitudes, different faiths and cultures and sexualities.

### **Values and Beliefs.**

3. The knowledge and information mentioned in (a) will be delivered in a context in which the following values will be encouraged:
  - a. respect and value for self and others;
  - b. understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;
  - c. responsibility for one's own actions; and

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- d. responsibility to the family, School and wider community.

SRE will be delivered in a way that complies with the Equal Opportunities Policy; pupils will not be excluded based on sex, age, race, religion, sexuality, disability, SEND etc.

### **Skills and Abilities**

4. The following skills will be encouraged:
  - a. communication, including the making and keeping of relationships;
  - b. assertiveness;
  - c. decision making;
  - d. recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy life-style; and
  - e. developing respect for the rights and desires of people they are in a relationship with

### **ORGANISATION**

5. Sex and Relationships Education is co-ordinated and taught by staff including the School nurses and PSHE Subject Leader, who reports to the Deputy Head (Pastoral).
6. Sex and Relationships Education will be delivered across science, religious studies and PSHE lessons. Where it forms part of the science curriculum there is no parental right of withdrawal.
7. Teaching approaches will vary as appropriate. For example in science a factual approach may be appropriate whereas in PSHE moral issues will be explored. This is not to say that the two approaches are mutually exclusive; and a teacher may employ both at his/ her discretion whilst teaching either PSHE or science.
8. Pupil groupings - pupils will be taught in their Year groups for PSHE (i.e. in mixed gender and ability groups). If the need should arise then pupils may be taught in other groupings (for example, split by gender) as appropriate to the specific need.
9. Resources - a wide range of materials are available and can be made available to parents on request.

### **SPECIFIC ISSUES**

10. The value of family life is an important aspect of Sex and Relationships Education and emphasis will be placed on the stability, respect, caring and support available through the family group.
11. The issues of contraception, HIV/ AIDS, sexuality and abortion are part of the Sex and Relationships Education programme. Facts will be presented in a balanced and objective manner. Pupils will be encouraged to consider their attitudes and values with regard to the values and beliefs mentioned above. They will be made aware of the difference between fact, opinion and religious belief.
12. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory SRE. Before granting any such request, the Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to

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ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The School will document this process to ensure a record is kept.

13. The Headteacher will discuss with parents the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child. This could include any social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher (although the detrimental effects may be mitigated if the parents propose to deliver sex education to their child at home instead).
14. Once those discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, the School will normally respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the School will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.
15. The process is the same for pupils with SEND. However there may be exceptional circumstances where the Headteacher may want to take a pupil's specific needs arising from their SEND into account when making a decision.
16. The Headteacher will automatically grant a request to withdraw a pupil from any sex education delivered in the Preparatory School, other than as part of the science curriculum. If a pupil is excused from sex education, it is the School's responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.
17. The rapidly changing nature of technology means that the scheme of work may require constant updating to reflect the dangers posed by the online world (for example the prevalence and effect of pornography). Updating the scheme of work is the responsibility of the Subject Leader for PSHE and the School nurses.

### **Monitoring and Review**

18. Sex and Relationships Education will be monitored by the PSHE Subject Leader and the School nurses. Changes to the programme will be made as appropriate following review.

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