



MONK'S WALK  
SCHOOL

KNIGHTSFIELD  
WELWYN GARDEN CITY  
HERTFORDSHIRE  
AL8 7NL  
[www.monkswalk.herts.sch.uk](http://www.monkswalk.herts.sch.uk)

[admin@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@monkswalk.herts.sch.uk)  
01707 322846

## Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

Status:	Statutory
Reviewed By:	Headteacher
Date of Approval:	June 2021
Date of Issue:	June 2021
Policy review date:	March 2022
Author:	Amber Cook

## INTRODUCTION

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is the right and responsibility of the parent/carer. The School provides RSE to support parents/carers in fulfilling their responsibility and to contribute to every students' health, wellbeing and preparation for adult life.

## MORAL AND VALUES FRAMEWORK

All aspects of Relationship and Sex education are taught within a sound framework of moral values.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of Relationship and Sex education is to prepare students for the physical and emotional changes that they will undergo during their time in school and for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. This must be seen within the context of promoting spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development and is firmly rooted within the framework for PSHCE and the school curriculum. To create a positive culture around issues of relationship and sexuality, effective relationship and sex education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. It aims to help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood, while at the same time giving students varied opportunities to develop personal and social skills.

- The aims of this policy are to:
- to enable our students to better understand the nature of relationships
- to help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- to create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- to enable students to understand the importance of stable loving relationships, including marriage, for the bringing up of children
- to prepare students for the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood
- to know about the risks of being online and how to stay safe from exploitation
- to support all young people for life in modern Britain.

## STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

As a secondary school, we must provide RSE to all students as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and the new statutory Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2020. We have ensured that all elements of the statutory curriculum are covered across a number of subjects. In teaching RSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

## INCLUSION

All students, regardless of gender, ability, religious belief or ethnic background are entitled to the full scope of the programme offered by the school. Access to lessons in which aspects of Relationship and Sex Education are covered is limited only by the statutory parental right of withdrawal. Students are taught in a variety of different groupings appropriate to the subject area in which the lessons take place and with the normal support services including SEN assistance, plus minority, ethnic and faith advice.

## ORGANISATION

Teaching, evaluation, assessing and reporting of Relationship and Sex education are delivered by the teaching staff. The Scheme of Work and the monitoring of its delivery is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHCE and Head of Science. All staff involved are provided with the necessary materials, training and support through the normal systems for departmental allowances, INSET provision and line management. Training is often provided within the team delivering a part of the programme, but this is supplemented as necessary, particularly for new colleagues.

Teaching is often in form groups, but in the higher years may also be in setted groups for a particular subject. Groups are normally mixed, but certain specific issues may occasionally be tackled in single sex groups. However, all students will have access to all the information on these issues.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS /CARERS

The school strongly believes that education is a three-way partnership between teachers, students and parents and Relationship and Sex education is no exception. Parents will be informed at the start of each school year of any aspects of sex education that will be covered during that year.

All students are entitled to the full scope of the programme offered by the school, subject to parents' approval where a statutory right of withdrawal exists.

Parents wishing to exercise their right to withdraw their son/daughter from any part of the programme should write to the Head of PSHCE. The Head of PSHCE will discuss any requests for student withdrawal with their SLT Link. A parent or carer cannot however, withdraw their child from Relationship and Sex lessons that are part of the statutory curriculum e.g. science and ICT.

There may be differences in emphasis in different teaching groups to match the needs of the students and to allow teachers to exercise their normal professional judgement about curriculum delivery.

## SPECIFIC ISSUES

### Information on Contraception:

Students are taught about contraception from Year Seven. Information and guidance on where to access help and advice is provided for students.

### Confidentiality:

The School recognises the need to create a supportive and secure atmosphere where students can develop the confidence needed to talk, listen and think about relationships and sex education. In order to do this, teachers will:

- Establish ground rules with students
- Emphasise the importance of mutual respect
- Encourage reflection
- Make students aware of the relevant persons to approach in the school

Every effort is made to respect students' privacy and the confidentiality of information revealed by them in confidence in the context of sex education. They will be strongly counselled to involve their parents/guardians in tackling any problems that they face. Where students are felt to be at risk, normal Child Protection procedures will apply.

#### Child Abuse:

Through the reaching of RSE, sensitive topics such as relationship abuse, consent, sexual abuse and domestic abuse are covered in the curriculum and may raise discussions around abuse. The school's procedures for dealing with any form of child abuse are outlined in the school's Child Protection Policy.

#### Sexual Harassment

In response to the Ofsted review on sexual harassment in schools, some aspects of the RSE curriculum has been moved to younger year groups to ensure that this is carefully sequenced. Sexual harassment and violence is explicitly taught, as well as discussion around the sending of images and consent.

#### Complaints Procedure:

Please refer to the school complaints policy on the school website.

#### ICT:

E-safety is taught within the Relationship and Sex and the ICT Curriculum. The ICT Policy covers this in more detail.

#### Involvement of Outsiders:

The school does use a wide range of external speakers and providers to help deliver the curriculum. Health professionals or other outsiders involved in the programme operate to a clear brief provided by the member of staff responsible for planning that part of the programme and always work with a teacher present.

#### Teenage Pregnancy:

Students are taught about the problems of teenage pregnancy and the implications for boys and girls. There is a project where students can take home a 'baby' to experience life as a parent. Appropriate support is given in instances of teenage pregnancy.

#### Procedures for supporting members of the school community affected or infected by HIV or STIs:

Strict confidentiality is maintained over information regarding HIV infection of any member of the school community or members of their families. Practical procedures for dealing with spillages of blood etc. are covered in the Health and Safety guidelines.

#### DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

The policy will be published on the school website and copies will be available on request from the School Administration Office.

#### POLICY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

All aspects of the policy and teaching programmes will be reviewed annually as part of the PSHCE programme review. This review will take account of the teaching staff's evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme and views expressed by Governors, parents and outside agencies. Student views will be obtained via the School Council, Year Group Council and the Sixth Form Committee. It will, of course, also take account of any legislative changes. The revised version will then be presented annually to the Governing Body for approval.

Any major changes will normally be the subject of a broader working group with Trustee representation. A list of the resources currently used is available on request. They are chosen to meet the aims of the programme in a way that is accessible to all our pupils and students.

A comprehensive list of topics taught can be found in the 'relationship, health and sex education' tab under 'curriculum' on our website and on the 'PSCHE curriculum maps' and 'subject overviews' on the 'subject information' tabs on the school website.

END