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Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

Status:	Statutory
Reviewed By:	Headteacher
Date of Approval:	March 2021
Date of Issue:	March 2021
Policy review date:	March 2022
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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. In support of the national objective of reducing teenage pregnancy, 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.

Specifically, we aim to make students aware of:-

- The moral and social issues associated with sexual matters and the range of variations in sexual behaviour and in moral and religious views of these issues, including the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.
- The need for self-respect, self-reliance and independence of mind in making decisions about sexual relationship matters and the potential risks, and the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations.
- The value of respect, trust, love and care and the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society, while taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of students based on their home circumstances.
- The biological and emotional changes they will or may experience and give them an opportunity to rid themselves of misconceptions.
- The processes of reproduction, pregnancy and childbirth.
- The facts regarding a range of sexually-transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.
- The role of contraception in family planning and the preservation of health, and the various methods available and about obtaining appropriate advice on sexual health from both local and national information sources.
- The implications of young pregnancy options for future choices.
- The dangers of peer pressure and of risk-taking behaviour, such as drug-taking, smoking and alcohol misuse, and how the law applies to sexual relationships.
- The dangers of forming relationships and giving out information via social media or the internet. The school's ICT policy covers this area in more detail.

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:

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 Sexual Abuse:

The school's procedures for dealing with child sexual abuse are outlined in the school's Child Protection Policy.

Complaints Procedure:

Any concerns or complaints about Sex and Relationship education should be addressed in the first instance to the SLT link to PSHCE. If they are not resolved, they should be addressed to the Headteacher and then, if necessary, to the Governing Body through the chair.

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:

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. Appropriate support is given in instances of teenage pregnancy.

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

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.

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