



Relationships and Sex Education policy

RSE and Learning for Life

The Relationships and Relationships and Sex Education content is part of the Learning for Life curriculum. The Learning for Life curriculum and resources have been created to ensure they meet the PSHE Association Programme of Study objectives, the Department for Education policy for statutory requirements for teaching RSE, the Independent School Standards, and it also embodies our ethos to teach pupils within the framework of Christian values. The Learning for Life curriculum is divided into three key areas:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Living in the wider world
3. Relationships (statutory)

Relationships and Sex Education is statutory teaching for all schools from September 2020.

RSE and mapping skills and knowledge

The RSE schemes of learning are not only mapped to the PSHE Association programmes of study and DfE guidelines, but also to our British Values and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) skills. In RSE we believe that mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith, is essential is part of understanding and appreciating the diversity of human nature.

RSE and our Christian values

Central to Christian theology is the belief that we are all made in the image of God. RSE lessons are rooted in the belief that everyone, without exception or exclusion, is a person known and loved by God, and support the Christian message of love, joy, and the celebration of humanity in all its diversity. RSE lessons are another chance to talk about the Walstead Way values of listening, honesty and treating others how you want to be treated, and how those values could be applied to issues of consent, respect, and recognising healthy relationships.

RSE definitions

Definition of Relationships Education Key Stages 1 & 2:

Relationships Education is that which pertains to the development of pupils' understanding and ability to have positive, healthy, meaningful and sustained relationships of all kinds. This will particularly reference family relationships including marriage, friendships and relationships with peers and adults. Relationships Education is not Sex Education.

Definition of Relationships and Sex Education Key Stage 3 Year 7 & 8:

Relationships and Sex Education is about giving young people the information they need to make choices that will help them form healthy appropriate relationships of all kinds, including intimate relationships. Pupils will consider the importance of long term intimate relationships as building blocks for family stability. As part of our Christian ethos, pupils will learn about the Christian understanding of marriage as the context for sexual relationships and the importance of trust, loyalty, fidelity and choice as well as the understanding of abstinence and celibacy as positive life choices. Relationships and Sex education is not about the promotion sexual activity, it is about promoting healthy, safe and loving relationships.

Right to excuse

Parents have the right to excuse their children from lessons which are identified on the curriculum as being sex education, and can do so by applying in writing to the Headmaster. We will invite you to talk through your concerns, review the materials we will use and explain our rationale. Excusing your child from sex education lessons remains a statutory right as a parent or a legal guardian.

Dealing with difficult questions

It is essential that there is an atmosphere of honesty and openness within any Relationships or Relationships and Sex Education lesson. The pupils must feel able to ask questions and challenge assumptions, however, it is also important that the pupils understand that there are limits to what is acceptable and what is not acceptable questioning. To this end, teachers will establish ground rules for acceptable conduct and discussion. Pupils will be able to ask anonymous questions on a question slip at the end of every lesson, which are turned in to the teacher. This gives the teacher time to consider whether the answer would be helpful and appropriate for that particular class. Some questions may not be appropriate to answer in front of a class, and may be better answered by parents. Teachers will be given training about how to deal with difficult questions in the classroom. If a teacher is concerned about a question raised then the teacher may inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead, in line with the schools safeguarding policy.

Safeguarding/Confidentiality

If, during the teaching of RSE, a pupil should disclose a child protection issue, the staff member will immediately inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the school's safeguarding policy. A member of staff cannot promise a pupil confidentiality in the event of a disclosure.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHE Coordinator, the Deputy Head and the Headmaster. This policy will be reviewed by those staff involved every two years. At every review the policy will be approved by the governing body.

Links to other policies

This policy is linked with the following School policies:

- Equal opportunities
- Safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Anti-bullying

The following external policies have been consulted in the building of the curriculum:

- *The Church of England Vision for Education (2016)*, The Church of England Education Office
- *Valuing All God's Children (2017)*, The Church of England Education Office
- *Changes to the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education and PSHE: A call for evidence (2018)*, The Church of England Education Office
- *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, Response to consultation (2018)*, The Church of England Education Office
- *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (February 2019)*, Department of Education
- *The Equality Act: advice for schools (2010)*, Department of Education
- *The Independent School Standards: advice for independent schools (2014)*, Department for Education

Governor approval

Signed by Chair of Governors: _____

Date: _____