

Relationships & Sex Education Policy

POLICY TITLE: Relationships & Sex Education Policy

STATUS Statutory

REVIEWED BY: Governing Body

DATE of NEXT REVIEW: July 2020

Rationale

Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School consider that Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) is an integral part of our Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum and is also linked to that for science.

This policy is based on recent guidance published by the Department of Education which laid an amendment to the Children and Social Work Bill on 1 March 2017 which stated that Personal Social and Health Education become statutory in schools to take effect from September 2019. This includes making relationships education statutory from 2020.

Ethos

We recognise that effective relationships and sex education provides a vital role in promoting the development of a healthy attitude to sexuality in oneself and one's relationships with others. The RSE programme is delivered as part of our PSHE course which deals with many issues such as self-esteem, assertiveness, communication and decision-making skills – all of which can contribute to the effectiveness of the RSE programme.

Aspects of RSE will also be addressed through other areas of the curriculum including topics such as birth rates in humanities and reproduction in science.

For the purpose of this policy the following definitions have been used:

Relationships and sex education (RSE): RSE is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up. This involves students learning about relationships, consent, puberty, reproduction, human sexuality and sexual health. It should equip children and young people with the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships and to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing.

1 Aims:

The school aims to prepare all students for their futures by providing a programme of information which enables students to make informed decisions and promotes positive attitudes to health, wellbeing and sexuality.

The RSE programme at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School is designed to meet the needs of all of our students and is differentiated to ensure all learners can access age appropriate relationship and sex education.

Our Aims:

1.1 To help students understand and develop friendships and relationships

1.2 To provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place

1.3 Prepare students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene

1.4 To help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.

1.5 To create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.

1.6 To promote knowledge and respect for reproduction

1.7 To provide opportunities to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help students think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way.

1.8 To promote an understanding of consent

Guidelines for the management and organisation of Relationships & Sex education at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

- 1.1 **Staffing:** Arrangements regarding the teaching of the programme and the deployment of staff will be made by the Headteacher
- 1.2 **Offering Advice:** The school's function is to provide a general education about sexual matters and issues and not to offer individual advice, information or counselling on aspects of sexual behaviour and contraception - however sources of professional information and advice will be identified when appropriate. Teachers may provide pupils with education and information about where and from whom they can receive confidential sexual advice and treatment, e.g. their doctor or other suitable agency. Advice offered should not be directive and should be appropriate to the age of the student.
- 1.3 **Explicit Questions:** It may not be appropriate to deal with some explicit questions in class. Teachers may choose to say that it is not appropriate to deal with that question at this time. If a teacher becomes concerned about a matter that has been raised, he/she should seek advice from the PSHE co-ordinator or the Headteacher. When deciding whether or not to answer questions the teacher should consider the age and readiness of the students, the RSE programme content, the ethos of the school and the RSE policy.
- 1.4 **Confidentiality:** It is school policy that in circumstances where a pupil is considered at some risk of any type of abuse or in breach of the law, the teacher must refer this immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- 1.5 **Withdrawing pupils from the RSE programme:** Under current guidelines until 2020 parents have a right to withdraw their child from sensitive aspects of RSE. This policy will be updated when new statutory legislation is introduced regarding Relationships and Sex Education in 2020. Parents do not have to give reasons for withdrawal, but we respectfully invite them to do so – sometimes we can then resolve misunderstandings.
- 1.6 **Teaching about sexuality:** Teachers do not promote any one life-style as the only acceptable one for society and therefore it is inevitable and natural that homosexuality will be discussed during a programme of sex education. One of the advantages of exploring issues concerning homosexuality is the opportunity to correct false ideas, assumptions and address prejudice. Discussion of homosexuality should be appropriate to the age of the pupils.
- 1.7 **Contraception:** This topic will be dealt with in an age appropriate, open manner, looking at all sides of the issues in a non-directive way.

1.8 **Language:** The correct scientific terminology will be used when teaching the programme of sex education. It is important that acceptable and unacceptable terminology is clarified. After initial discussion, correct biological terms will be used at all times for teaching.

MONITORING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The RSE Policy will be reviewed every two years by taking into account government advice and statutory changes. The policy may be reviewed more frequently if there are significant changes to government policy/guidance.

Feedback will be provided via the Head teacher for the Curriculum Committee who have responsibility for the policy.

APPROVED by the Governors: