



Wightwick Hall School

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Reviewed and Amended June 2017

Introduction

Our school relationship and sex education policy is based on the DfES guidance document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' [ref DfES 0116/2000]. In this document sex education is defined as:

'Lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.'

Relationships and sex education is an equally important area of the curriculum for pupils with Special Educational Needs. Planning and implementation needs to involve sensitivity and discretion.

RSE is embedded in the non-statutory framework for PHSE and Citizenship, and the statutory curriculum for Science.

We believe that relationship and sex education (RSE) makes an essential contribution to every student's health, wellbeing and preparation for adult life in society. Effective RSE is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives students essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.

Relationships and sex education is compulsory from age 11 onwards.

The aim of the relationship and sex education policy is:

- to endorse the entitlement of all students in this school to RSE
- to ensure that appropriate guidance is available for the staff that will deliver the programme of RSE in the school.
- to specify the right of parents to withdraw their children from all or part of RSE.

Relationships and sex education is part of lifelong learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health. It contributes to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students and prepares them for the experiences, rights and responsibilities of adult life.

At Wightwick Hall the relationship and sex education programme will cover three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
- learning the value of family life and stable loving relationships for the nurture of children
- learning the value of respect, love and care
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision making.

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- learning to make choices based on understanding of differences and with an absence of prejudice
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- managing conflict
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national health advice, contraception and support services (including education about HIV and AIDS - and other sexually transmitted diseases)
- supporting students to make wise and informed choices regarding sexual activity
- developing an awareness of sex and the law
- developing an understanding of the diversity of relationships and sexuality
- an understanding of the difference between consenting and exploitative relationships
- understanding internet safety issues such as sexting and sharing of images

All students are entitled to sex and relationship education. We will provide a coherent, well-balanced RSE programme that:

- reflects the age and maturity of the students
- meets the particular needs of both boys and girls

Content and organisation

Relationships and sex education is not an isolated subject. It permeates the whole school curriculum, the ethos of the school and the pastoral system.

Many subjects, but particularly Science, Religious Education and PSHE explore some elements of relationship and sex education. The content of RSE for our

KS4 students is delivered by Mrs J. Betts (Science Co-ordinator) and supported by the school nurse Mrs S Thompson

The school creates a supportive and secure atmosphere where students can develop confidence to talk, question, listen and reflect on their learning about RSE. Prior knowledge and understanding will be assessed at the beginning of each unit of study, to inform planning and delivery of subject content.

Staff will:

- establish clear ground rules with pupils
- emphasise the importance of mutual respect
- use distancing techniques
- encourage reflection

The Equals scheme of work is developed, reviewed and adapted to meet the needs of all students.

Topics covered include:

Key Stage 3

- My changing body
- Awareness and coping
- Being myself
- Personal sensitivity
- Community belonging
- Human development
- Changing relationships
- Respecting others
- Lifestyles
- Peer pressure

Key Stage 4

- Understanding my bodily needs
- Teenage pregnancy
- Sexual health
- Relationships and divorce
- Pregnancy and birth
- Sexuality and enjoyment
- Stereotypes
- Planning for the future
- Ethnic diversity
- Communicating about feelings and relationships
- Safer relationships and lifestyles

Confidentiality

- Teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality in some matters and students will be made aware of this.
- Wightwick Hall School is aware that effective relationships and sex education can lead to the disclosure of a Child Protection issue and this will be acted on in accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy.

Parents' Right of Withdrawal

- Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex and relationship education provided.
- Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are included in the National Curriculum for Science.

Monitoring and evaluation

- The PSHE Co-ordinator will liaise annually with the other curriculum areas to ensure that the syllabus is being covered.