

# RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

## SCOPE

This policy applies to Quinton Hall School – the John Lyon Prep School. All references to ‘the School’ refer to the Prep schools except where otherwise specified.

## Review and monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head of PSHCE. Electronic copies are available via the School’s website. Hard copies are also available on request, if required.

## Relationships and Sex Education Policy

The School believes that we should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment, which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child. The school recognises the importance of working within government guidelines set out in the document, *‘Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers) 2022.*

## What is Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)?

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

## Morals and Values

The School’s Relationship and Sex Education reflects the values of the PSHCE programme taking into account The Fundamental British Values and SMSC. RSE is taught in the context of all inter-personal relationships. In addition, our RSE programme promotes: self-esteem and self-awareness; emotional health and well-being; tolerance and acceptance of others life choices. We wish to help our pupils form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

## Aims and Objectives of the policy

The aim of RSE is to provide pupils with age-appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions about their health-related behaviour. This should take place with consideration of the qualities of relationships within families.

## The objectives of Relationships and Sex Education are:

- To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled.
- To clarify/reinforce existing knowledge and dispel any misconceptions.
- To raise pupils’ self -esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others.

- To help pupils understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives.
- To help pupils develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) and make the most of their abilities.
- To provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others.
- To help gain access to information and support.
- To develop skills for a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media.
- To respect and care for their bodies.
- To help pupils to develop a clear understanding of their bodies, including the changes which have taken place since birth and those which will take place in the years ahead.
- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood.

## The teaching programme for Relationships and Sex Education

### Legal requirements

All schools must teach the following as part of the National Curriculum Science Orders, parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children.

### National Curriculum Science Key Stage 1

- Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.
- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.

### National Curriculum Science Key Stage 2

- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals
- Describe the changes as humans develop to old age.

### RSE involvement

Every pupil is entitled to receive RSE regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, age, culture, disability, sexuality, language, special needs, disadvantaged and looked after children.

It is our intention all pupils have the opportunity to experience a programme of RSE at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required.

We believe that it is important to introduce the correct language for parts of the body from an early age and for the reproductive organs when appropriate. All staff are aware of this and attempt to introduce this in a consistent manner.

In year 6, a special series of science and PSHCE lessons is devoted to puberty and the changes it brings.

By the end of year 6 pupils should be able to:

- Name the main sexual and reproductive parts of the male and female human body using correct terminology, and describe their functions.

- Describe the main physical and emotional changes in puberty for boys and girls and the differences between them.
- Explain that there are different rates of change for puberty for different people and give some reasons for this.
- Identify basic facts about menstruation and practical aspects of how to cope with this.
- Identify basic facts about reproduction, pregnancy and the birth of a baby.
- Deal positively with concerns or questions they have about puberty and know where to go for further help and information if they need it.
- Understand that a healthy family life is characterised by love and care, including respecting that families may be different to their own.
- Understand that stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families and important for children's security as they grow up.

Details can be found at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1019542/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1019542/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

## **The organisation of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**

Relationship and sex education is delivered through science and PSHCE. RSE is taught by designated teachers with support where appropriate of teaching assistants and if appropriate, outside visitors such as the school nurse. A range of teaching methods which involve a pupil's full participation are used to teach RSE. These include use of video, discussion, looking at case studies, drama and role play. Resources to RSE may include fiction, reference books, leaflets and extracts from video clips. RSE is usually delivered in mixed gender groups; however, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant in the Summer Term.

## **Parental consultation**

Any parent has a legal right to withdraw their child, either wholly or partly, from receiving relationship and sex education in school, other than that contained within the National Curriculum Science Orders, (National Curriculum in England DfE 2013). If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from the lessons, they should discuss this with the Headmaster or Deputy Head, making it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. However, parents should be aware that pupils will talk to one another outside the classroom and may be misinformed by their peers if they are withdrawn from the programme. In the instance of withdrawal alternative work would be set. The school informs parents in advance when aspects of the RSE programme are to be taught and provides opportunities for parents to view the videos and resources being used. Similarly, if a pupil is using abusive terms or sexual language in the playground, the class will be informed and appropriate action taken.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Our RSE programme takes this into consideration, upholding the British values of tolerance and mutual respect, ensuring that delivery of content and resources are accessible to all. The School will ensure that the delivery of RSHE is sensitive and age appropriate in content. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the RSHE programme ensures that pupils and families are not discriminated against because of their protected characteristics (age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation).

## **Dealing with Difficult Questions - Both formal and informal**

Sometimes pupils may ask explicit or difficult questions in the classroom situation. Teachers will use their professional skill and discretion before answering and if necessary, deal with them later individually. Questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the member of staff responsible for safeguarding if they are concerned. Any sensitive questions addressed to non-teaching staff (e.g. lunchtime supervisors, TA's) should be referred to the pupil's form tutor and/or PSHCE teacher, who will be aware of the child's background and level of maturity and topics recently covered in lessons, to allow a more considered answer. Where appropriate, teachers will discuss the pupil's concerns with the parents.

## **Confidentiality**

Teachers are aware that effective Relationship and Sex Education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, can lead to the disclosure of a child protection issue. If a teacher becomes concerned that a pupil is at risk, they should follow the school's safeguarding/child protection procedures.

## **Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation**

The School believes that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.