



WALTHAMSTOW HALL
SEVENOAKS

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Regulations 2019 make the Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education, and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education.

This document should also be read in conjunction with the statutory guidance from: The Department for Education (DfE) issues under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and Section 403 of the Education Act 1996. It should also be read in conjunction with DfE Advice on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between children in schools and colleges May 2018

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives 'seamlessly' on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks.

From April 2021, the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education becomes compulsory for all schools. Schools are free to determine how to deliver the content of the guidance, in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum.

Definition

Relationship and sex education is a lifelong learning process about physical, moral and emotional development and the understanding of 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. It is composed of three elements:

- (1) Attitudes and values
- (2) Personal and social skills
- (3) Knowledge and understanding

Although we think that the prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents, we also believe that the school has a complementary role to play in the relationship and sex education of its pupils.

The overriding objective of this policy is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.

Aims

- To provide facts and information **appropriate to the different age groups in the school**, at the appropriate time, about the processes of human reproduction, the nature of sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases.
- To enable pupils to acquire skills and develop attitudes which prepare them to manage their relationships in a morally responsible and healthy manner.

- To foster an understanding of the value of a stable home life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood.
- To help pupils appreciate religious traditions and values.

Provision

- In line with DfE recommendations, relationship and sex education is delivered primarily through the PSHEE framework. However, it is also interdisciplinary and involves the Biology and Theology and Philosophy Departments respectively at appropriate stages in a pupil's development.
- From September 2018, Girls on Board was adopted for use with pupils aged 9 and above; an approach where 'everyone benefits from a shared model and a common language to promote communication and give insight. It creates a new vocabulary which enables pupils and adults to better understand one another and provides parents with a range of strategies equipping them to support their daughters more effectively when unhappiness arises due to friendship problems'.
- At Walthamstow Hall we use a variety of teaching personnel, as appropriate: specialist staff, tutors, school medical staff, outside professionals (for example the RAP project May 2021)
- We employ a variety of teaching methods and strategies that include discussion, group work, fact sheets and DVDs.
- Materials used are in accordance with the PSHEE framework and the law. Appropriate language is used at all times.
- In the classroom, no-one (teacher or pupil) should have to answer a personal question and no-one will be forced to take part in any discussion; only the correct name for body parts will be used and the meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way.
- A filter system on the computer network protects students from accessing inappropriate material.
- In line with DfE Guidance there are sections in the PSHEE programme on relationships, sexual identity and orientation (LGBT), puberty, menstruation, contraception, abortion, safer sex, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections. Some of these issues are also covered in Science and Philosophy and Theology.
- Members of staff cannot give an absolute guarantee of confidentiality on sexual matters. Pupils raising such issues are encouraged to talk to parents/carers. Under the law, health care professionals can see, and in some cases, treat young people confidentially and part of their approach includes counselling.
- As a school, we are free to determine how to deliver the content of DfE statutory guidance. We also recognise the right of parents/carers to withdraw pupils from sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.

Responsibilities

Whilst the Headmistress has overall responsibility for this policy, the Deputy Heads oversee the provision of relationship and sex education both in PSHEE and in other departments where it is delivered. The Heads of Key Stages 3 and 4, and the Head of Sixth Form, work with the Deputy Heads to devise an appropriate programme that is developmental and builds in any topics or issues covered previously. The Subject Lead for PSHEE oversees the provision of relationship and sex education in the Junior School. Tutors, specialist staff, school medical staff and outside professionals are all involved in delivery of the programme at different stages.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Deputy Heads, in conjunction with the Heads of Key Stage 3, 4, the Sixth Form and the Assistant Heads of the Junior School, monitor the programme and evaluate its effectiveness regularly through

discussion with pupils and those involved in delivering the programme. The Deputy Heads report to the Headmistress who, in turn, reports to the Governing Body regularly and when relevant.

Parents have the right to withdraw their daughter(s) from any part of the relationship and sex education programme.

This policy will be reviewed regularly by the Headmistress and Governing Body and modified as appropriate.

This policy has regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Walthamstow Hall policies are approved, ratified and reviewed regularly by the Governing Body in the light of statutory requirements.

Reviewed, Feb 2021
Next Review Feb 2022

Signed by:Date.....

Mrs J Adams
Chairman of the Governing Body