

## DP135 Relationships & Sex Education Policy

<b>Policy Title and Summary</b>	Relationships & Sex Education Policy (RSE)
<b>Date of Issue</b>	November 2016
<b>Date and responsibility of next update/review</b>	Cherry Franklin September 2022 (3 Years)
<b>Trade Union Consultation</b>	N/A
<b>Ratification date</b>	Academy Committee (AC) 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<b>Review Date</b>	September 2019
<b>Audience</b>	Teachers
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Related documents</b>	None
<b>Legal Framework</b>	N/A
<b>Glossary of terms</b>	N/A

## **1. Relationships and Sex Education?**

RSE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It aims to give pupils essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitive relationships and to stay safe on and offline. It enables exploration of attitudes and values, helps build self-esteem and confidence to view their sexuality positively. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect and love and care for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. RSE fits in with our whole school ethos and promotes respect for self and others.

## **2. Principles and Values:**

Hazel Grove High School believes that RSE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continuing into adult life.
- Be age appropriate
- Be an entitlement for all young people regardless of background or circumstance.
- Encourage every student to grow and learn.
- Be set within the wider school context and support family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion about relationships and sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents/carers are the key people in teaching their children about relationships, sex and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers and students, consulting them about the content of programmes.

- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers where necessary.

**Relationships and Sex education 3 main elements:****Attitudes and Values**

Learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;

- Learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, marriage and civil partnerships;
- Learning about 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
- Challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

**Personal and Social Skills**

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- Learn that people have the right not to be sexually active;
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- Learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- Developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- Managing conflict;
- Empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter).

**Knowledge and Understanding**

- Learning about the experience of being a young person as a potential partner/parent;
- Laws relating to sex, relationships, consent and rape, sexual exploitation, abuse(physical/emotional/sexual), grooming, coercion and harassment.
- Laws protecting the LGBT community
- Sexting

- Revenge porn
- Forced marriage
- Honour based violence
- FGM
- Pornography as a distorted image of sexual behaviours
- Internet safety and harms
- LGBT awareness – individuals and their relationships should be respected

### **3. Aims**

The aim of RSE is to provide balanced factual information about relationships and sex, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. The high quality teaching is differentiated and personalised so the content is accessible for all students including SEND students.

Our RSE programme aims to prepare all students for an adult life in which they can:

- Develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- Avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- Communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
- Considers pupils' faith backgrounds and takes into account religious beliefs
- Develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity as per Equality Act 2010.
- Understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- Understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- Have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from unwanted sexually transmitted infections.

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- Be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary.
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

## **Organisation and Content of Relationship and Sex Education**

Hazel Grove High School deliver Relationship and Sex Education within Beliefs & Values and assemblies. It is also supplemented by a whole school approach from different subject areas as well as off timetable curriculum days and events. Our programme is embedded into Beliefs and Values, Science and Computing specifically at KS3, and KS4. Teachers generally deliver the RSE programme with support from professionals where appropriate. Beliefs and Values lessons focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships. The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten. The Computing National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the ICT department. The lessons cover E-safety, Safe use of Technology and Cyberbullying.

RSE curriculum is complemented by working with outside agencies. Such as 'Respect Me', the School Nurse team and Lily Jo Project.

Any RSE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

## **4. Inclusion**

### ***Ethnic and Cultural Groups***

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some young people it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in mixed groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns as appropriate.

### ***Students with Special Needs***

We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

### ***Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation***

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate question and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

## **5. Right of Withdrawal of Students from Relationship and Sex Education**

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from the sex education programme, other than those elements which are required by the National

Curriculum (i.e. Science). They do not have the right to withdraw their children from the Relationships Education as we believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Parents/carers will have a right to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, should be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, school will make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16.

Parents/carers are encouraged to discuss their decisions with the Headteacher at the earliest opportunity.

## **6. Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues**

Teachers cannot offer confidentiality to any of their students.

In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16-year-old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- The young person will be encouraged to talk to parents/carers.
- Safeguarding issues will be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Officer under the school's procedures.
- The young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.