

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Date of Review – March 2020

Member of Staff with overall responsibility; Mr. I. Nicholson

Governing Sub-Committee with Reviewing Responsibility: Standards and Curriculum

Introduction

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is defined in statute by the DfE under the powers of the 2002 Education Act and included in Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education (DfE 2019a).

RSE aims to give students and young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds. It will enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It also covers sexual health, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex. It develops an understanding of what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships and the positive impact that a healthy relationship can have on mental well-being.

The delivery of RSE within the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) curriculum covers all aspects of the statutory guidance which is mapped in Appendix 1 of this policy. The teaching of RSE takes account of the latest Ofsted framework in ensuring the personal development of students.

The policy is reviewed in line with the requirement laid out in statute that the content will be reviewed nationally every three years as will the Stretford Grammar School RSE policy upon publication of renewed guidance.

The governing body of Stretford Grammar School will review and approve the school RSE policy as legislation requires and a copy of the approved policy will be available on the school web site. The school follows the legal requirement that all students from Year 7 will study Relationships Education, however, parents/carers will have the right of withdrawal from the sex education elements of the RSE curriculum until 12 months before the student's 16th birthday when they are allowed to make their own decision on inclusion in sex education lessons.

Delivery of RSE

RSE will be delivered a central element of PSHCE lessons in Y7 – 11 and through Active Learning Days throughout the year.

Some elements of such as sexual reproduction are taught through the Science curriculum, for example, the reproductive cycle to which there is no parental/carer right of withdrawal. The Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for PSHCE will plan and monitor the delivery of RSE within the school and also maintain the register of those students withdrawn from the delivery of sex education. Parents/carers will be contacted annually to ask if any would like

their child to be withdrawn from sex education and a central, secure record will be available to staff delivering PSHCE.

Topics covered in the RSE curriculum are guided by national programmes of study from the PSHE association which are DfE approved; only materials with PSHE Association approval will be used in the delivery of the RSE curriculum and these are held centrally for teaching staff to access with lesson plans and resources.

The core areas of the RSE curriculum which are covered in the school are

- Love, relationships and sexuality
- Sex and the responsibilities of parenthood
- The argument for delaying sexual intercourse
- Building self esteem
- Taking responsibility for one's actions in a sexual relationship
- Different forms of contraception, how to access it and safer sex
- The law surrounding consent and sexual intercourse
- Pornography and sexual exploitation

All students should feel that the content and delivery is relevant to them and their developing sexuality. The delivery of RSE will be non-judgemental and inclusive ensuring that the needs of all students regardless of sexuality, gender, ethnicity, religion and disability are catered for, in this manner ensuring equality of access to all materials and topics. This is monitored by the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for PSHCE through student voice, work scrutiny, the provision of teaching materials, learning walks and parental consultation through the school web site.

The Assistant Headteacher will report annually to the Curriculum and Standards Sub-Committee on the content of the RSE curriculum within school and on parental/carer responses to the policy and on work undertaken in lessons.

In line with the Equality Act 2010 the RSE curriculum will be tailored to suit the needs of students who may have issues with accessing the materials through the provision of differentiated work to ensure quality first teaching for all.

It may be appropriate for some elements of the school SRE curriculum to be delivered by specialist organisations, all of these will be assessed by the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for PSHCE prior to being invited into school and will be given a copy of the RSE Policy to ensure that they fulfil the requirements of the school in ensuring a balanced, age appropriate experience for all which does not discriminate against any group within the school.

Use of Materials

The delivery of RSE within the school will focus on a factual, non-judgemental teaching methodology which will allow students the opportunity to ask questions in a safe environment. In support of this all students in each year group will establish ground rules at the beginning of each academic year which are displayed in books and in lessons. Staff will use distancing techniques where appropriate to manage sensitive discussions and the use of question boxes is made in all groups so that students feel safe to ask an anonymous question to which they wish to know the answer.

All materials used in the delivery of the RSE curriculum are approved by the PSHE association and are reviewed annually. No overtly explicit images will be used in RSE and the school computer monitoring system will ensure that students cannot have access to such images within the school environment. Where access is attempted to such images the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for PSHCE will be informed and contact will be made home by the class teacher and logged.

Consultation

Parents/carers will be able to make comment on the school policy for RSE through the web site and to send comments for alteration to the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for PSHCE. The annual information evening for each year group will contain a section on RSE for that group and parents/carers will be able to ask questions about the content, delivery and policy at these.

Parents/carers will be directed to the policy in the letter sent by the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for PSHCE at the beginning of each academic year which also outlines the right of withdrawal from the sex education elements of the curriculum, unless the child is 12 months from their 16th birthday. Parents/carers are requested to email or write asking for the right of withdrawal which is then logged centrally on a secure section of the school staff intranet.

The policy will be reviewed and parents/carers will be contacted for comment through the Intouch system. Copies of the programmes of study are available from the school on request so that parents/carers can support the learning about RSE at home.

Confidentiality

Where a health care professional is used in the delivery of the RSE curriculum they are bound by their own code of conduct to maintain strict confidentiality.

All staff in school delivering RSE undertake Level 1 Safeguarding Training as a core element of the CPD programme on the first ISNET day of the year. This means that in terms of disclosure dealing in an RSE lesson they involve only those people who need to know, starting with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the Child Protection Team; where they are unavailable then a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Staff will never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about an issue of abuse.