

## **RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY**

### **Introduction:**

In accordance with the new statutory guidance Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (mandatory from 1 September 2020 and for which schools are encouraged to adopt from September 2019), Relationships and Sex Education is mandatory for all secondary school pupils.

The objective of sex and relationships education at the RGS Worcester is to help and support the pupils through their physical, emotional and moral development. It will be conducted in a framework whereby pupils are encouraged to adopt a respect for others and to appreciate the need to act responsibly.

Facts will be presented in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner.

At all stages, pupils will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life which may take a variety of forms and the responsibilities of parenthood.

It is inevitable that aspects of sex and relationship education will arise in various subject areas. When this happens, they will be addressed in a thoughtful and sensitive manner by teachers using their professional judgement and common sense.

### **Content:**

The provision of sex and relationships education will ensure that pupils acquire knowledge about the nature of human sexuality and the processes of human reproduction in the context of loving relationships. The following will be included:

Puberty	Sexual Orientation
Human reproduction	Legal Issues
Contraception	Self-esteem, peer and cultural pressures
STIs including HIV/AIDS	Genetics
Marriage, divorce	IVF
Abortion	
	Sex

### **Delivery:**

PSHCE lessons will be the main vehicle but discussions on this topic may surface in any lesson. We source high quality resources to support our RSE provision and these are regularly reviewed by our Head of PSHCE and our Heads of Year. We constantly review our provision and take into account the views of our pupils to do all we can to meet their needs. Parents are made aware of forthcoming Relationship and Sex Education lessons so that they can discuss with us any concerns they may have.

Issues about the Delivery of the Policy:

- Parents should be informed about the School's policy. They will not be invited to withdraw their children from lessons in which relationship education is covered. However, in accordance with the Government's Statutory SRE guidance, parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of sex education lessons. The only exceptions to this are the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are an essential element of the National Curriculum, Science.
- If a parent wishes to exercise this right, we ask that they contact the **Deputy** Head (Pastoral) or Senior Deputy Head to discuss the matter in the first instance and that any request must be made in writing and addressed to either the **Deputy** Head (Pastoral) or Senior Deputy Head. In accordance with statutory guidance, a pupil over the age of 15 years and 9 months can request to attend such sessions,

even if their parent has made a formal request to withdraw the pupil from all or part of these sessions. In such circumstances the School will always endeavour to work with the parents and pupil to ensure that a fully informed decision is made.

- INSET will be provided for topics to be covered in PSHCE periods
- Staff will be entitled to ask to be replaced for certain sections of the syllabus
- The Heads of Year will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of sex and relationships education at RGS Worcester
- The School Nurse may be involved in the delivery of sex education

### **Members of Teaching Staff:**

- can provide all pupils with information about where and from whom they can receive advice and treatment
- can provide education about types of contraception and where they can be obtained
- should be aware that giving contraceptive advice (as opposed to information) to individual pupils under 16 without parental knowledge or consent, is likely to be considered an inappropriate exercise of a teacher's professional responsibilities
- should not promise confidentiality. Where a member of staff believes that the pupil has embarked on, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, he/she should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). This includes a child under 16 who is having, or contemplating having, sex.
- need to be aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. It is essential that teachers follow the reporting procedures laid down in the Safeguarding Children Policy if they know, or suspect, that a child is a victim of abuse.
- must insist on the following basic ground rules for the classroom:
- no-one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question
- no-one will be forced to take part in any discussion
- no-one to use inappropriate language or material, having regard to their age and cultural background
- only the correct name for body parts will be used
- meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way

### **Members of Nursing Staff:**

School Nurses who are on the NMC Register are governed by the NMC Professional Code of Conduct and must adhere to its principles of confidentiality and privacy. This does not guarantee confidentiality but means the nurse must assess the appropriateness of information sharing even if the pupil is under 16.

### **Pupils:**

Pupils are deemed to be at risk in safeguarding terms if they are:

- involved in illegal activities
- involved in situations where they can endanger themselves or others
- involved in situations where they are being exploited or are exploiting others
- victims of physical, sexual or emotional abuse

If a member of staff suspects a child is at such a risk they must contact the DSL as soon as possible.

### **Classroom Discussions:**

What a pupil says or writes in the classroom will not be considered confidential. Pupils will be encouraged to speak in general, rather than personal, terms during classroom discussions.

### **Sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy:**

The following procedure applies when a pupil tells a member of staff that he or she is suffering from a sexually transmitted disease, or if a girl tells a member of staff that she is pregnant:

- no guarantee of confidentiality should be given to the pupil.
- the DSL should be informed.
- if the boy or girl is over the age of 16 (the age of consent), the member of staff should advise them to inform their parents of the situation, but there is no obligation on the member of staff to do so. The DSL may decide to inform the parents.
- in the case of a pupil under the age of 16 the DSL will consult with the Social Services.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Head (Pastoral) and the School Nurses.

Sponsor – Assistant Head (Pastoral)

June 2011

Reviewed and Endorsed by the Board of Governors: September 2012, August 2013, August 2014, October 2015, August 2016, August 2017, August 2018, August 2019, August 2020, April 2021 (to change student to pupil), September 2021 and July 2022, June 2023 (Deputy Head Pastoral)