



Kingdown School

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RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Adopted by Governing Body – 19th November 2020

Last amended **September 2020**

For review 3 years

Key Terms

RSE – Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships Education – teaching and learning about healthy friendships, families and online communication.

Sex Education – teaching and learning about sexual relationships, sexual health and sexuality.

PSHE – Personal, Social and Health Education

Rationale and Purpose

We define ‘relationships and sex education’ as the teaching and learning about the types of relationships that we find in the world today; from friendships, to family, to sexual relationships, to marriage. It is the unbiased, mature and scientific exploration of sex and relationships in the world today and the social, emotional, moral and legal responsibilities associated.

We believe relationships and sex education is important for our young people to learn about the world around them; their current and future relationships, and the important issues related to sex and relationships.

We view the partnership of home and school as vital in providing the context in which to continue the discussions raised via the RSE curriculum at school.

Our school’s overarching aims for our students are to prepare them for their future in which sex and relationships are likely to play a significant part. We also wish to help our students grow in awareness and understanding of the wider world, and the types of relationships that are part of it.

We ensure RSE is inclusive and meets the needs of all our students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by no students are withdrawn from PSHE lessons (where RSE lessons are taught) for other activities. Students are taught mostly in house groups and where required, provision is made for additional support for our SEND students, in class. Where required, a greater focus may be used on PSHE/RSE through the use of a specialized curriculum for some of our SEND students, through the Learning Centre.

We ensure RSE fosters gender equality and LGBT+ equality by learning about a range of relationships including the LGBT+ community. This is not limited to PSHE, as we try to ensure members of all communities are represented through teaching and learning, as far as possible.

The intended outcomes of our programme are that students will:

- know and understand a range of important ideas pertaining to RSE, including physical, scientific, social, moral and legal associations.
- understand they have a right to consent.
- understand they have a responsibility to respect others; their bodies, their choices, their feelings, and the law.
- develop the skills of empathy, communication, and resilience.

Roles and Responsibilities

The RSE programme will be included in the PSHE curriculum and therefore overseen by the Head of PSHE (Mr Richardson). It will be taught by Heads of House / Pastoral Staff, to students in house groups, in almost all cases. This is to nurture a safe and comfortable environment where staff and students know each other

well.

A working party will be made up of all staff teaching the course, who will meet during the year to discuss best practice and emerging priorities. There is also a named governor for Pastoral Care (including teaching of PSHE and RSE) who meets with the Head of PSHE during the year.

Legislation (statutory regulations and guidance)

We are required to teach relationships education/RSE as part of statutory guidance from the DfE (in place from September 2020, but suggested from September 2019) and this informs the planning and teaching of RSE.

The RSE policy supports/complements the following policies:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Kingdown School's Equality Objectives
- Parental Responsibility Policy and Guidance
- Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Documents that inform the school's RSE policy include:

- Education Act (1996)
- Learning and Skills Act (2000)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010),
- Supplementary Guidance RSE for the 21st century (2014)
- Keeping children safe in education – Statutory safeguarding guidance
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)

The Curriculum

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education provision and will cover:

(In Year 7)

- How to form positive friendships (including others, teamwork)
- Anti-bullying
- Staying safe (healthy and unhealthy relationships, staying safe online)
- Puberty
- In Science, Year 7 students are taught about reproduction, puberty, menstruation, fertility, and contraception.
- Please note that in 2020, some aspects of non-RSE teaching in Year 7 PSHE will be withdrawn to provide extra RSE lessons. This is to make up for RSE teaching missed for many Year 6 students, due to the COVID-19 lockdown and school closures.

(In Year 8)

- Being proud of who you are (personal identity)
- Healthy relationships (self-esteem, FGM, marriage, separation, divorce, bereavement, human rights)

(In Year 9)

- Changing adolescent body

- Families
- Respectful relationships and breakups
- The impact of the internet and media on sex and relationships
- Being safe (FGM, consent)
- Sexual health (healthy relationships, STIs and pregnancy)
- Valuing others (Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia)

(In Year 10)

- The impact of sex and relationships on self-esteem and confidence
- Protection from emotional and physical risks with sex and relationships
- Abortion
- Pornography
- Toxic relationships

Our RSE programme is inclusive of all types of families, relationships and sexual relationships. We will ensure RSE is matched to the needs of our students by monitoring trends and needs highlighted through internal student voice, and data provided by the Wiltshire Healthy Schools survey.

Our RSE programme will be taught through a range of teaching methods and interactive activities, including discussion, role play, reading, writing and analysis of key resources such as film.

Within PSHE and RSE at Kingdown, we aim each year to make regular use of visiting speakers and guests, to bring learning to life.

High quality resources will support our RSE provision and will be regularly reviewed by the Head of PSHE and the working party of PSHE teachers.

Students will be encouraged to reflect on their own learning and progress through regular discussion.

Assessment in RSE takes place through 'AFL', or 'Assessment for Learning'. We are aware that RSE is a lifelong learning journey. Therefore, feedback is given through class discussion. Once per term, students in will participate in a short knowledge test to ensure progress in key areas of learning, and highlight any areas that may benefit from being revisited.

An overview of the learning in each year group can be found by contacting the Curriculum Leader for PSHE.

Safe and Effective Practice

We will ensure a safe learning environment by establishing and reminding students of the 'ROCK' principles used within PSHE and RSE at Kingdown. 'ROCK' stands for Respect, Openness, Confidentiality, and Kindness. These are outlined at the start of the year, and revisited throughout the course, particularly during RSE lessons.

In cases where safeguarding concerns may be raised, teachers of PSHE and RSE will follow usual safeguarding procedures for Kingdown. Students are made aware at the beginning of the course that this will happen if teachers believe a student, or another, may be at risk.

Stakeholders

Parents will be informed about the policy through the school newsletter, and it will be available for viewing on the school website. We are committed to working with parents and carers by discussing with them any comments, questions or concerns about RSE/PSHE provision.

As with any of our policies published on the school website, parents are welcome and encouraged to discuss and work with us on content and processes undertaken when forming the RSE curriculum and policies.

We work closely with parents to ensure that they are fully aware of what is being taught and provide additional resources and support through signposting to external agencies where appropriate.

Parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their children from some / all aspects of sex education which is not taught in Science lessons. Parents are not able to withdraw their child from relationships education. However, we wholeheartedly believe that being present for RSE lessons is of the utmost important for all students, especially as teaching is delivered in an unbiased way and will ultimately contribute towards a wider sense of tolerance for, and understanding of, the world.

If a parent/carer requests that their child be removed from some / all aspects of sex education, they will be invited to meet with the Headteacher / another member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss concerns, and provide support by clarifying which specific part of the curriculum they wish to withdraw from. We will also aim to work with the parent/carer to find a way for their child to continue to engage with the RSE curriculum.

Governors will be informed of the RSE policy and curriculum through annual reviews, as well as regular meetings with our nominated governor for Pastoral Care (which includes the teaching of PSHE).

Pupil voice will be used to review and tailor our RSE programme to match the different needs of students through annual surveys, delivered through PSHE lessons.

Policy to be reviewed November 2023