

ST MARGARET'S
SCHOOL

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Updated September 2020
To be reviewed January 2021

INTRODUCTION

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is part of a lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. RSE is centred on personal safety, caring for others and building strong family and personal relationships. Within this framework students will also be taught about law, consent, safe sex, sexual health and sexuality.

Effective relationship and sex education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. RSE at St Margaret's School is intended to help students learn about relationships, emotions, sexuality and sexual health. We aim to present relevant facts in an objective and balanced manner. Our comprehensive PSHE curriculum ensures that every year group will learn RSE set in the context of family, friends and wider societal issues and address responsibilities that arise from within these relationships. RSE at St Margaret's will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood. Students will build their confidence and self-esteem to ensure that they understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity and how to form successful, safe and healthy relationships.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Curriculum Policy and the Equal-Opportunities Policy.

LEGISLATION

We are required to teach RSE as part of statutory guidance that states from September 2019, all schools must deliver relationships and sex education in secondary schools.

The parental right to withdraw pupils from RSE remains in primary and secondary education for aspects of sex education which are not part of the Science curriculum.

Documents that inform the school's RSE policy include:

- Education Act (2002)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equalities Act (2010)
- Supplementary Guidance SRE for the 21st Century (2014)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016)

- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations (2019)

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We are aware of the varied views of the many cultures and faiths within our classes. We aim to be sensitive to these views but also must ensure that students have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals. The students will be given clear, impartial scientific information on matters such as abortion as well as covering the law in relation to, for example, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. RSE, within PSHE lessons, will also cover the concept of, and legislation relating to, equality. RSE will also address the issues of sexual orientation and gender identity and will be sensitive to the needs of individual students.

PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE CURRICULUM

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the RSE element of the National Science Curriculum. This is the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction.

The new legislation brought in through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 brought important changes in relation to parental rights to withdraw children from school RSE:

- The school will work closely with parents when planning and delivering RSE. Parents will have access to the RSE Curriculum and the school will clearly communicate the fact that parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.
- Parents will be given every opportunity to understand the purpose and content of Relationships Education and RSE.
- Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.
- If a parent wishes to withdraw a pupil from RSE, the head teacher will discuss with the parents the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the pupil. This could include any social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as

the likelihood of the pupil hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher (although the detrimental effects may be mitigated if the parents propose to deliver sex education to their child at home instead).

- Once discussions have taken place, the School will respect the parents' request to withdraw the pupil, up to and until three terms before the pupil turns 16. After that point, if the pupil wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements to provide the pupil with sex education during one of those terms.
- If a pupil is excused from sex education, the school will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

SENIOR SCHOOL

THE TEACHING OF RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

RSE will be specifically taught in PSHE and science lessons. PSHE is taught by teachers who have undertaken training in both PSHE and RSE. Certain aspects of the programme will be delivered and supported by external professionals. For further details of the RSE programme please refer to the Schemes of Work.

SAFETY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Staff follow the guidance of the school Safeguarding Policy and the government guidance in the document Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016). Training on this issue is an annual requirement. Teachers will make it clear to students what our procedures are with regard to confidentiality. Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. Teachers will follow the appropriate protocols for reporting and safeguarding.

RESOURCES

RSE resources are carefully selected to ensure

- Inclusivity
- Positive, healthy and unbiased information can be delivered
- Age and understanding appropriate

EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE TEACHING

- Biological terms will be used for all parts of the body
- Clear and unequivocal language will be used
- 'Slang' words will be discussed to avoid misunderstanding and to ensure that offensive language is not used by students
- All teaching will be age appropriate
- Respect will be expected and shown at all times
- Creation of class agreements of ground rules will be completed as a class before RSE is taught.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education are:

- to give pupils the knowledge (that is age appropriate) and understanding they need in order to make informed decisions and behave in a responsible way in matters concerning relationships and sex.
- To ensure pupils have a good knowledge of their own bodies and to prepare them for the changes during puberty.
- To learn about the values of family life, love, respect and care.
- To help children develop healthy attitudes towards relationships and sex.

These values are enhanced by our school ethos of kindness and respect, in which everyone is valued, supported, safe and secure. Attitudes, values and skills are as important as knowledge and understanding.

Sex education is taught in the context of a family situation and includes both the physical and emotional aspect of relationships and sex.

Children will learn about relationships and sexual behaviour from many different places but home and school are the most important. Parents and teachers must work together to make sure that children develop the confidence to make healthy decisions about a broad range of relationship issues, including decisions about sexual behaviour as they grow older.

TEACHING OF SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOL

Opportunities will arise during science topics to discuss various issues as and when they arise and these issues will always be dealt with at the time rather than being avoided.

Sex education is officially taught in Year 6 at the end of the Spring Term as part of the Science Curriculum.

Parents are notified of this by letter and given an outline of the lesson content with an invitation to discuss any concerns and view the videos used beforehand. Pupils are encouraged to discuss issues raised at home and parents are encouraged to be open and honest with their children.

RSE/PSHE RELATED LESSONS TAUGHT IN SCIENCE

Year 5: The Human Body: including puberty and the human lifeline
Reproduction in mammals and plants (asexual and sexual
reproduction)

Year 6: Human Reproduction: including puberty and menstruation

Personal Hygiene
Healthy Lifestyle and Exercise
Impacts of Drugs and Alcohol

Questions are encouraged and are always answered honestly but for any pupils who are too shy to speak aloud or who have a personal query, they may write a note on a piece of paper and put it in the 'Ask it Basket'. These questions will be answered with no reference to individual pupils.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF RSE IN BOTH SENIOR AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

The curriculum and delivery of RSE is reviewed annually and is set within a spiral programme that ensures all aspects of RSE are covered as defined in government guidance. Lesson observations are encouraged and students may be consulted on the delivery and effectiveness of lessons and the content of material. In the senior school, after every topic a formal assessment will be given to ensure that learning objectives have been met. Students will also be provided with the opportunity to make further suggestions on what they would also like to learn, which will then influence future programming decisions.