

HURTWOOD HOUSE

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

| Reviewed | By | Last reviewed | Last modified |
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| Annually | SMT | June 2021 | Dec 2020 |

Introduction

Revised Department for Education statutory guidance states that from September 2020 all schools must deliver Relationships Education (Primary) and Relationships and Sex Education (Secondary):

'The statutory requirements do not apply to sixth form colleges, 16-19 academies or Further Education (FE) colleges, although we would encourage them to support students by offering these subjects. These settings may find the principles helpful, especially in supporting pupils in the transition to FE'.

'Sixth form colleges and other 16-19 institutions that provide education for 14-16-year olds under an agreement with the Department for Education or its agencies are required by that agreement to follow guidance which covers a number of areas including the curriculum. The current guidance sets out the need to include the teaching of sex and relationship education in accordance with sections 403 and 405 of the Education Act. From September 2020, these institutions will need to teach the new subjects of Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education and to follow this guidance'.

DfE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education July 2019

Our small cohort of GCSE Foundation - GF (Yr 11) students follow a tailored programme of PSHEE (see PSHEE Policy) and RSE according to statutory guidance. Given these students are on a one-year programme, we have to assume prior knowledge from their previous KS2, 3 and 4 education. To this end we include specific, age-appropriate elements of RSE in our two-term programme. Our A Level students are exposed to a wider programme of PSHEE which incorporates appropriate elements of RSE.

Safe & Effective Practice

In the GF (Yr 11) PSHE and RSE programme, material often draw on students' real-life experiences. A safe and supportive learning environment will be created by establishing ground rules in each context for the delivery of subject material. Staff delivering PSHE and RSE will ensure the students, who indicate they may be at risk, get appropriate support by liaising with the appropriate pastoral team and adhering to the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Equality of Opportunity

Classroom practice and pedagogy will take into account students' age, ability, readiness and cultural background and students with SEND and will be adjusted to enable all students to access the learning. We will use RSE education as a way to address diversity issues and to ensure equality for all by addressing contextual issues identified through our pastoral system. RSE delivery is designed to comply with the Equality Act 2010. Provisions within the Equality Act allow the School to take positive action, where it can be shown that it is proportionate, to deal with particular disadvantages affecting one group because of protected characteristics. Parents have the right to withdraw their son/daughter from those parts of RSE not within the national curriculum.

Definition of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Relationships and sex education (RSE) is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It should equip young people with the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships, to enjoy their sexuality and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.

RSE is an entitlement for all children and young people and must:

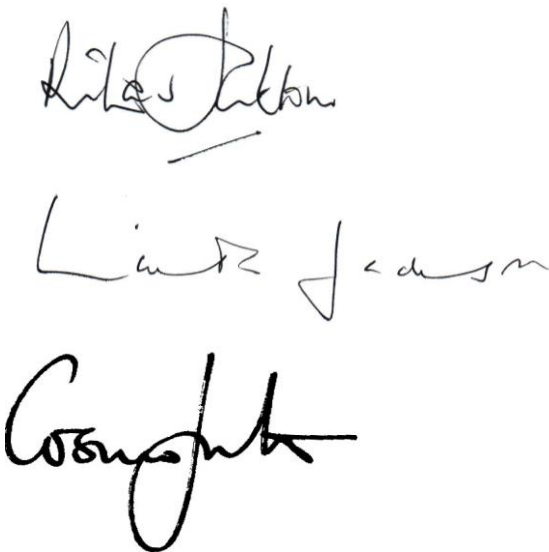
- be accurate and factual, covering a comprehensive range of information about sex, relationships, the law and sexual health, in order to make informed choices. In schools this should be part of compulsory curriculum provision;
- be inclusive in terms of gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, culture, age, religion or belief or other life-experience particularly HIV status and pregnancy;
- include the development of skills to support healthy and safe relationships and ensure good communication about these issues;
- promote a critical awareness of the different attitudes and views on sex and relationships within society such as peer norms and those portrayed in the media;
- provide opportunities for reflection in order to nurture personal values based on mutual respect and care;
- be part of lifelong learning, starting early in childhood and continuing throughout life. It should reflect the age and level of the learner;
- ensure children and young people are clearly informed of their rights such as how they can access confidential advice and health services within the boundaries of safeguarding;
- be relevant and meet the needs of children and young people, and actively involve them as participants, advocates and evaluators in developing good quality provision;
- be delivered by competent and confident educators;
- be provided within a learning environment which is safe for the children, young people and adults involved and based on the principle that prejudice, discrimination and bullying are harmful and unacceptable.

Delivery

The GF (Yr 11) PSHEE and RSE programme (see PSHEE Policy) is delivered by the Head of Life Skills and incorporates input from other school specialists such as the School Nurse, and other outside agencies.

Right to withdraw

Parents will be able to withdraw their child from sex education (other than the sex education which sits in the curriculum as part of science). However, a student will also have a right to opt into sex education from their 15th birthday (specifically three academic terms before they turn 16) even if it is against his/her parents' wishes. Before granting such a request, the Deputy Head - Students will discuss with parents and, as appropriate, with the student to ensure their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The School will respect the parents' request to withdraw the student up to and until 3 terms before the student turns 16. After that point, rather than be withdrawn, if the student wishes to receive sex education, the school will make the provision. If a student is withdrawn from sex education, the school will ensure the student receives purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. The School will keep a record of all such decisions. Parents are informed of the 'right to withdraw' via the Student-Parent handbook, and they can request a copy of the PSHEE and RSE policy and programme.

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| Authorised by | resolution of the Partners  |
| Date | 22nd June 2021 |

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| Effective date of the policy | 1 st September 2021 |
| Circulation | Partners / all staff / parents / students on request |
| Status | Complies with requirements the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014 and DfE RSE Statutory Guidance 2019 |