



## **POLICY DOCUMENTS**

<b>Citation</b>	This document shall be cited as: <b>Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy</b>
<b>Person responsible</b>	Headmaster
<b>Comments to</b>	Headmaster
<b>Last reviewed/updated</b>	October 2020 and February 2021
<b>To be reviewed/updated</b>	October 2021
<b>Reason for review/update</b>	Annual review
<b>Person reviewing/updating document</b>	Nick Seward
<b>Source/Author of document</b>	Nick Seward
<b>Implementation of the policy</b>	On-going



## **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

- **Scope.** This policy outlines the provision for relationships and sex education at Kingham Hill School (KHS), and the procedure for parent/s to withdraw their child/ren if they wish to exercise their statutory right to do so.
- **Interpretation.** The “Head” includes deputies. “Parent/s” includes one or both of the parents, legal guardians or education guardians. “Child/ren” includes one or more pupils enrolled at the School by parent/s.

### **2. Rationale**

- The provision of relationships and sex education at KHS is informed by a Christian understanding of human beings and conducted in an environment characterised by grace (the free and unmerited favour of God). The School teaches in accordance with Biblical convictions: specifically, that human life begins at conception, marriage is understood to be heterosexual, monogamous, and lifelong, and gender is indicated by birth sex. KHS promotes chastity and self-restraint outside marriage. The School also actively promotes British Values, including respect and tolerance for those of differing lifestyles, paying particular regard to those with Protected Characteristics under the 2010 Equality Act.

### **3. Parental consultation, the right to withdraw, and *in loco parentis* support**

- As per the Department for Education (DfE) guidance, a parental consultation was opened in the Headmaster’s letter to all parents in October 2019. A request for input was again invited in the Headmaster’s letter of December 2019. The consultation closed in February 2020. The feedback received could be broadly characterised as a desire that children not be taught ‘too much, too soon’, the innocence of childhood should be protected, and that traditional views be respected.
- The School promotes the fundamental human right of parents as the primary educators of their children. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from sex education, but not relationships education. In exercising this right, the DfE specifies that parents should first discuss the matter with the Headmaster, so that the School can document the reasons for withdrawal. In each case where this right is exercised, the School undertakes to provide purposeful education in place of the sessions from which the pupil is absent.
- In keeping with these convictions, KHS sees the child’s houseparent(s) as the primary *in loco parentis* guide to personal development, and promotes an open dialogue with pupils on these matters with experienced pastoral staff.
- Alongside this relationship-based approach, KHS also provides a pastoral assistant programme, offering boys and girls older role models and guides to wise living.
- Topics in the PSHE curriculum are discussed during tutor time alongside the timetable.

#### **4. Policy formulation and review**

- Following the feedback from the consultation, the existing Sex Education Policy was overhauled as the RSE Policy to reflect the guidance provided by the DfE and the commentary on the ISI regulations, September 2020. The policy was updated with regard to the relevant legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. The policy was scheduled to be ratified by governors in November 2020, with a view to teaching commencing in the Summer Term of 2021. The policy is published on the School website, and reviewed annually by the Headmaster, taking into account feedback provided from School stakeholders (including parents) throughout the year.
- Following the annual review, parents will be consulted about any proposed amendment to the policy, prior to its being ratified by the governing body.

#### **5. Content**

- In accordance with DfE guidance relationships education is woven into the fabric of the School curriculum (see the points about pastoral guidance in Section 3); it is delivered in a manner that fulfils the legal requirements of the regulations whilst also remaining true to the ethos of KHS. Relationships education consists of four key elements:
  - i.) Safety in forming and maintaining relationships
  - ii.) The characteristics of healthy relationships
  - iii.) How relationships may affect physical and mental health and wellbeing
  - iv.) The nature of marriage and civil partnership and their importance for family life and the bringing up of children
- Sex education is taught in both the Science curriculum and in PSHE, and the schemes of work are detailed in the relevant departmental handbooks.

#### **6. Objectives**

- To enable pupils to understand the importance of families for nurture, identity and wellbeing.
- To help pupils understand how to enjoy a range of mutually respectful relationships.
- To assist pupils in protecting their physical and mental health and safety in relationships.
- To enable pupils to understand the biological aspects of reproduction.
- To help pupils consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning and their social and moral implications
- To make pupils aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present-day society and help them recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health and personal safety.
- To help pupils understand the concept of stereotyping, and to discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals
- To give pupils understanding of relevant legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender, and equal opportunities, and to make them aware of statutory and voluntary organisations which exist to offer support in this regard.
- To engage with LGBT content in an age-appropriate way at Key Stage 4. KHS teaches its distinctive faith perspective on relationships, identifying to pupils what the law does and does not allow. In all RSE matters the School encourages a balanced debate to take place.

This policy was ratified on .....

and will be reviewed October 2021

Signed by the Chairman of Governors .....

Reviewed and updated by Nick Seward (October 2020 and February 2021)