



DEAN CLOSE
SCHOOL
CHELTENHAM

**Independent, Co-educational, Day and Boarding
Senior School**

**Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy
(S118)**

Registered Charity No: 1086829

Date of Issue: September 2021
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Owner: Deputy Head Pastoral

DEAN CLOSE SCHOOL

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX and HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

Relationships, sex and health education is learning about emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) is an entitlement for all children and young people in England and should support them in managing puberty and adolescence. It should also prepare them for adult life in which they can:

- a. Develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour
- b. Understand the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children
- c. Have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others
- d. Behave responsibly within personal and sexual relationships
- e. Know the characteristics of a healthy relationship
- f. Be aware of and enjoy their sexuality
- g. Understand how relationships may affect their physical and mental health and well-being
- h. Have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and their partner from unintended/unwanted conceptions and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
- i. Know how to form and maintain safe and intimate relationships
- j. Neither exploit others nor be exploited
- k. Access confidential advice and support

Equality

Teaching within RSHE is in line with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Schools must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation. Where positive action is required within the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 to deal with particular disadvantages affecting a group, there will be consultation with the Wellbeing Lead. For example, supporting an individual or group who are experiencing discrimination or harassment. Speakers and outside agencies may be engaged to provide support and challenge.

Reflecting the Christian character of Dean Close

Dean Close is informed by the teaching, values and beliefs of the Christian faith. Our pupils are a diverse mix of young men and women with a Christian faith, different faith and no faith. Our RSHE programme provides an opportunity for us to explore Christian teachings on these sex and relationships whilst investigating and understanding alternative attitudes.

The Church of England's Pastoral Advisory Group, published the following 6 principles to inform discussions on matters of Relationships and Sex.

1. Acknowledge prejudice
We are all unique and have been conditioned by our experience of life.
2. Speak into silence
Providing space, permission and opportunities for pupils to speak, if they want to.
3. Address ignorance
A commitment to understand the experiences and perspectives of others.
4. Cast out fear
Creating discussions in which pupils are able to ask questions.
5. Admit hypocrisy
Seeking to apply our core value of love to all settings.
6. Pay attention to power
Developing awareness of each person's power and vulnerability to the power of others.

Dean Close will focus on the importance of trust, respect, intimacy and discretion. Through challenging stereotypes, understanding the threat of pornography, having a good knowledge of the law and building self-esteem, we aim to provide all of our pupils with the tools to flourish in long term, committed relationships.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Dean Close is committed to all pupils receiving the an excellent RSHE. We recognise that pupils with SEND may need more support to generalise their learning outside of RSHE lessons and support to personalise the learning to their own relationships, behaviours and maturation. It may be appropriate to revisit topics more frequently with pupils with SEND to support 'overlearning' for new and abstract topics.

In addition to designing materials to be as accessible as possible, the curriculum will be shared with the Learning Support department to enable support both inside and outside normal lessons.

English as an Additional Language

The English Language Training department work closely with the PSHE and are able to focus on key words and phrases that may be used in discussion to support understanding in lessons. Clear definitions will be provided with any new material covered to enable access by all pupils.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying is common in society as is the significant mental health issues risks young people as a direct result of their sexuality or gender identity. One of the ways in which Dean Close responds to this is by seeking educate all of its pupils about the issues that effect LGBT, the legal status of LGBT relationships in the UK, to take into account the experiences of LGBT people and to explore themes of difference, diversity and equality.

Trustees

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The governing bodies of schools are required to keep an up to date RSHE policy that describes content and the organisation of RSHE provided outside the science curriculum. There is a nominated safeguarding Trustee who has oversight of the PSHE provision.

Consulting with parents

The Head of Department will lead an annual consultation (June) with parents in which there will be opportunity to view examples of resources that are to be used. Consultation will be in two parts; an initial survey and a workshop session. In the first term each year, parents will be notified via letter when RSHE will be taught.

Consulting with pupils

The Head of Department will lead an annual pupil review with a pupil panel (June). Each year group will also carry out an in-class review of the content covered. The school participates in a biennial online survey carried out by Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning that helps inform curriculum content.

Right to be excused from sex education

Parents/guardians of pupils will be informed of the content of the RSHE curriculum and given the opportunity to withdraw children from the lessons that are focused on the sex education elements of the course. Parents will be required to write to the Headmaster to request withdrawal, upon which they will be invited to discuss their concerns. Any pupil who is withdrawn from the sex education curriculum will follow an appropriate alternative curriculum during those particular sessions.

Nature of teaching groups

Lessons are taught in mixed ability and mixed gender, single year groups.

Summary of course content

The Deputy Head (Pastoral) has overall responsibility for the RSHE programme. The RSHE curriculum is led by the Head of PSHE and is taught by a team of trained teachers with varying experience. It is supported by the Director of Tutoring and by the team of tutors. External agencies are occasionally used to complement classroom teaching. Teaching staff are able to receive regular training in order to support pupils to develop healthy and nurturing relationships of all kinds.

Teachers ensure that there is a safe learning environment and that there are agreed ground rules in place for use in the classroom. Pupils also know where they can go for support outside of lessons should they need to discuss personal issues in a safe environment.

The RSHE curriculum is an integral part of the broader PSHE programme and all junior year groups will follow a spiral curriculum covering the following topics:

Characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships; family life; consent; contraception; sexually transmitted infections; pornography; celebrating diversity (LGBT+).

The PSHE Handbook contains detailed schemes of work which are updated annually as a consequence of reviews carried out by the Head of Department, teachers and pupils. There is also an annual review carried out by the Deputy Head (Pastoral). The curriculum is approved each year by the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

Safeguarding

The School's Confidentiality Policy gives guidance to teachers when discussing sensitive issues including RSHE. The procedure for answering difficult questions is outlined in the PSHE handbook. As a general rule a pupil's confidentiality is maintained unless the teacher believes that the pupil is at risk or in danger. In this instance the incident will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and procedures laid down in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy followed.

Assessment

Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their own learning and progress within lessons through class discussion, small group work, quizzes and a continuous learning portfolio. An overview of the learning in each class is carried out at the end of each term.