

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

1. Rationale

St Hugh's is committed to providing a well-planned informative and supportive curriculum to ensure all pupils can face the challenges of moving towards a happy and successful adult life. The aim of our curriculum is to enable pupils to develop resilience, understanding and access support when required. This policy is in line with the statutory Relationships and Sex Education guidance and is supported by our PSHE Curriculum.

2. Aims

The aims of the relationships and sex education at our school are to:

- Provide a framework and suitable learning environment in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

These are all in line with the new government statutory guidelines for schools [link here](#) and support our school ethos and teachings through PSHE.

3. Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, staff and pupils involving the following steps:

1. Staff consultation- all three phases of the school have reviewed the policy, curriculum and recommendations during Pastoral Leadership Meetings
2. Parent stakeholders' consultation-a survey was sent to all parents for approval and to ask for recommendations.
3. Pupil consultation-pupils were asked what they would like from their RSE during School Council meetings
4. Ratification –Amendments were made, and the policy was shared with Governors and ratified

4. Definition:

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

It is important to emphasise that Relationship and Sex education is age appropriate and does not promote sexual activity. St Hugh's teaches the RSE content through its PSHE and Science curriculum which are in line with statutory requirements but have been adapted to suit our schools' ethos and values.

5. Curriculum

Pre-Prep, Middle School and Upper School (Years 5 and 6)

RSE is taught within the PSHE curriculum. The biological aspects of RSE are taught within the Science curriculum and other aspects are included in subjects such as Religious Studies.

Relationships education focuses on teaching fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

Upper School (Years 7-8)

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health (age-appropriate materials)

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

St Hugh's is an inclusive school and our PSHE/RSE curriculum is made accessible to all SEND pupils. The curriculum is adapted, supported and personalised where necessary to ensure we are preparing all our children for a safe and happy adulthood:

6. Roles and Responsibilities:

- **The Governing Board**

The governing board will approve the RSE policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

- **The Headmaster**

The Headmaster is responsible for ensuring that the RSE policy is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of the PSHE/RSE curriculum.

- **Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the need of individuals
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from non-statutory components RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headmaster

Staff responsible for the delivery of the RSE curriculum are the Head of PSHE, Head of Pre-Prep, Head of Middle School, the Deputy Head (Pastoral)

- **Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RS, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

7. Parents' right to withdraw

- **Pre-Prep, Middle School and Upper School (Years 5 and 6)**

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing following the parent survey and addressed to the Headmaster.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

- **Upper School (Years 7-8)**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing following the survey sent to parents. The withdrawal should be addressed to the Headmaster

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Headmaster will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

8. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Headmaster will also invite visitors from outside the school and the school nurses to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

9. Monitoring

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Deputy Head (Pastoral) through:

Planning scrutinies, Learning Walks, Book Looks, feedback from parents, pupils and staff

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by delivering teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

Monitoring and Review

Reviewed by Deputy Head Pastoral and Heads of PSHE : September 2021

Reviewed and Approved by The Education, Welfare and Compliance Committee:

September 2021

Next Review: September 2023