



## **RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY (YEARS 7 TO 13)**

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other College policies, in particular the Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy and the Wellbeing Policy (Years 7-13).

The aim of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, and not just intimate relationships.

The teaching of RSE is a partnership between home and school. The College aims to provide a safe and respectful environment to learn about RSE which supports the vital role of the parent or carer. RSE at the College aims to promote healthy relationships and to allow pupils space to explore their own thoughts, feelings and experiences and to develop empathy towards, and an understanding of, others. It is delivered alongside other components of the Wellbeing and Physical Education programmes, facilitating an integrated approach that aims to keep the focus on healthy relationships, and to encourage our pupils to make healthy, considered and informed choices.

We recognise that our pupils, come from a diverse variety of families. All teaching at the College, including the specific RSE education, will aim to support all pupils equally and to encourage the celebration of diversity.

### **Mode of delivery and themes covered**

The content and delivery of the RSE curriculum also acknowledges the College's requirement to work within the law of the Equality Acts.

RSE is taught most directly through Wellbeing lessons and is usually delivered by Form Tutors, and it is important that this Policy is read in conjunction with the Wellbeing Policy (Years 7-13). It is also covered in a range of other lessons and Assemblies, for example in Biology, Religion and Theology and Form Tutor periods, and is also embedded at all times through our ethos, Code of Conduct, and other policies. At times, RSE education is enhanced through employing the services of a sexual health nurse, whilst the College's Medical Centre plays a key role in the provision of physical and sexual health, including offering confidential advice on sexual health within the Safeguarding Children guidelines.

The following list of themes is intended to give an overview of the key components of the RSE education at the College, but is not exhaustive, and our provision of RSE will respond to the age of pupils, the needs and questions of pupils in addition to current issues and events affecting our community and beyond:

- Developing healthy relationships and how to refuse, report or reject unhealthy ones;
- The consequences, benefits and risks associated with sexual behaviour including sexual health and making responsible choices about the use of contraception;

- The physical and neurological changes that occur in young people during puberty and their impact on emotions, relationships, and behaviours of young people and those around them;
- The importance of consent in relationships, including how it is given and refused;
- Developing healthy and safe online relationships and being aware of risks in this area, including communicating with strangers, viewing pornography, and publishing or sharing personal information, including but not limited to sexual content;
- Celebrating diversity as well as understanding and responding to prejudice, including but not limited to discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability and sexual orientation;
- The law relating to sexual activity as well as producing, viewing and sharing sexual images, and in particular the law as it relates to young people.

Examples from the schemes of work in which RSE is taught are available to parents, along with ways to access opportunities for consultation about the content and delivery of RSE through channels such as Parent Forums.

### **The Role of Parents**

We are well aware that the primary role in children's Sex and Relationships Education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with parents through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In pursuing this objective, we:

- Inform parents about the College's Relationships and Sex Education Policy and practice;
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the Relationships and Sex Education of their child;
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers about this policy or the arrangements for Relationships and Sex Education in the College.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating the Policy**

Teacher assessment will inform discussion about the successful implementation of the policy. Judgements about the success of the policy can also be made through gathering evidence from staff about how the policy supports them, from parents about the clarity of the information provided, and from pupils about how the Relationships and Sex Education provision is meeting their needs.

### **Participation**

All pupils are expected to participate fully in RSE lessons, though we are sensitive to the needs of each individual pupil and family: we work with parents and guardians to ensure that all pupils feel comfortable in their Wellbeing lessons. Anyone with concerns should contact the Head of Wellbeing in the first instance.

The College communicates to parents their right to request that their child be excused from sex education lessons. If a parent makes this request, they (and hopefully, where suitable, the pupil) will meet with a member of the pastoral team to discuss this. In accordance with DfE guidance, Discussions and meetings will take place (with parents, and where possible, the pupil as well) except in exceptional circumstances, and the College will respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the College will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms. If a pupil is excused from sex education, the College recognises its responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal, and that there is no right to withdraw from relationships education or health education.

### **Pupils with Special Educational Needs ("SEN")**

We need to ensure that the needs of pupils with SEN are met. This may mean additional support within lessons, small group or individual lessons and an adapting of resources to enable access. Parents may need to be consulted individually with regard to pupils with SEN.

### **GUIDANCE**

This policy has been informed by the following documentation:

- *The Independent School Standards – Guidance for independent schools* (Department for Education, April 2019)
- *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education* (Department for Education, February 2019)

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<b>Policy Owner:</b>	Senior Deputy
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