


SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY



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| Approved by: |  Headmaster Chair of Governors | Date: 02/11/22 |
| Last reviewed on: | 02/11/2022 | |
| Next review by: | 02/11/2024 or as required by changes to regulatory legislation | |

Note: This policy applies to all sections of the School including EYFS

1. Introduction

This policy:

- Is non-contractual in nature;
- Applies to all members of staff except those who have not completed their probationary period;
- Can be adjusted by the School to suit specific circumstances;
- Can be varied unilaterally by the School.

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Saint Nicholas School are to:

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

2. The Law

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education.

3. 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.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

4. Curriculum

The curriculum that is followed at Saint Nicholas is the programme of study for PSHE education published by the PSHE Association and it takes into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy or the scheme of work, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner, so pupils are fully informed and do not need to seek answers online.

5. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) curriculum.

Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum.

Relationships education in the Lower School focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

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

In the Middle and Upper School, 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

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).

6. Staff Responsibility

Staff are responsible for:

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

Any staff who have concerns about teaching RSE should discuss it with an appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The PSHE lead in the Upper School is Mrs A Howe

The PSHE lead in the Middle School is Mrs K Bradford

The PSHE lead in the Lower School is Miss L Perez

7. Pupils

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

8. Parents' right to withdraw

The school will inform parents of when elements of the RSE curriculum are being taught.

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

Parents do 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 made by writing to the Headmaster.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE at Saint Nicholas School is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team.