

## Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

### Aims

Silcoates School aims to provide a curriculum that covers all of the statutory content as outlined in the DFE document Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2020). The curriculum will also comply to all aspects of the Equality Act (2010). Silcoates School aims to provide a curriculum which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils;
- prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life;
- explicitly addresses the issue of consent;
- considers all forms of relationships;
- highlights abusive relationships including coercion and control;
- is sensitive towards the needs and views of others;

The curriculum will be devised following consultation with parents through the Wakefield RSE Parental Survey. Silcoates parents are also given the opportunity to give feedback on the curriculum and changes will be made accordingly.

### Objectives

#### Junior School

We ensure that great care is taken to match any sex education provided to the maturity of the pupils involved, which may not always correspond to their chronological age. The education takes account both of the pupils' capacity to absorb sensitive information and the extent to which it is essential for them to have such information at that point in their development.

This is geared to the needs of the class or group as a whole. At the junior stage, the aim is to prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up, and to give them an elementary understanding of human reproduction.

#### Senior School

Sex education encompasses, in addition to the facts about human reproductive processes and behaviour, consideration of the broader emotional and ethical dimensions and sexual attitudes. It includes, at a point appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils, education about HIV, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. In dealing with these and other sensitive matters, such as contraception and abortion, teachers aim to offer balanced and factual information and to acknowledge the significant moral and ethical issues involved.



## Content

In the senior school, the majority of the content will be delivered through Personal Development lessons. Some aspects may be covered in curriculum lessons such as RS or Science. Spectrum Community Health will deliver some of the content. Other aspects will be covered in tutor time discussions and through assemblies. Schemes of work are available on Firefly.

Each pupil should, at a level appropriate to his/her age and development:

- know and understand
  - different types of committed relationships
  - how these relationships contribute to happiness and their importance in bringing up children
  - what marriage is, including the legal status which makes marriage different to other forms of cohabitation
  - why marriage is an important relationship choice for many and why it must be freely entered into
  - the characteristics and legal status of other forms of relationship
  - the role and responsibilities of parents
  - issues around trust and safety including how to seek help or advice
  
- know and understand
  - the characteristics of positive and healthy friendships in terms of trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and managing conflict
  - managing conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships
  - the impact of stereotyping
  - the concepts of respect and tolerance of people in authority and of other people's beliefs
  - impacts of bullying including the role of the bystander
  - behaviours within relationships that are classified as criminal including violence and coercive control
  - what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why they are always unacceptable
  - what are the legal rights regarding equality and protected characteristics
  
- know and understand
  - rights, responsibilities and opportunities in a digital context
  - online risks associated with sharing material with others
  - how to report issues and find support
  - the impact of viewing harmful content
  - sexually explicit material such as pornography presents a distorted picture of relationships and behaviours
  - the law around sharing and viewing indecent images of children
  - how information is generated, collected and shared online



- know and understand
  - laws relating to consent, child-on-child abuse, exploitation, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour based-violence and FGM and how these may affect current and future relationships
  - how people can communicate and recognise consent and the idea that consent can be withdrawn (including online)
  
- know and understand
  - how to recognise the characteristics of positive relationships
  - all aspects of health (physical and mental) can be affected by relationship choices
  - facts about reproductive health including fertility and menopause
  - strategies to manage sexual pressure and the importance of not pressurising others
  - that they have the choice to delay sex or enjoy intimacy without sex
  - facts about contraception
  - facts about pregnancy and miscarriage
  - that there are choices in relation to pregnancy
  - facts about Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) including human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) including transmission, protection and testing
  - how alcohol and drugs may lead to risky behaviours
  - how to get further advice in all aspects of sexual health

## **Moral and Values Framework**

We aim to promote the best spiritual, moral and cultural development of each pupil along lines broadly in accord with traditional Christian values, but taking into account the faith and culture of each individual and the wishes of parents.

We respect each pupil as a unique and valued individual.

## **Advice on Contraception**

Teachers will be informing students of the different contraceptives available, the mechanism by which these contraceptives work, and any long- or short-term side effects of these contraceptives. Teachers will not give individuals personal advice on specific contraception. The clinic is stocked with information leaflets concerning methods of contraception. Pastoral staff will work with students who are deemed to be at risk from risk taking behaviour.

## **Homosexuality**

Teachers will show understanding and care for any pupil who believes herself/himself to be homosexual or bi-sexual or considers themselves to be transgender. Students may also have LGBT parents, siblings, other family members and/or friends. We will take proactive steps to



promote respect and understanding of LGBT issues during lessons and the pastoral programme.

Our pastoral support will take account of the needs of these students and will actively deal with homophobic bullying as outlined in the anti-bullying policy.

## Right to Withdraw

Parents are free to withdraw their children from SRE if they wish to do so. The only exceptions to this are the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are essential elements of Science curriculum.

## Policy Review

Each year, pupil voice will provide feedback on the curriculum and the pastoral team will review the curriculum based on this and the need to add or remove content based on local and national issues.

The School is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Further details are available in the School's Equal Opportunity Policy document.

<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Mr Evans – Deputy Head (Pastoral)		
<b>Date of last review:</b>	May 2024	<b>Date of next review:</b>	May 2025

