



# Relationships and Sex Education

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## Policy on Relationships and Sex Education

The revised National Curriculum, published 11th September 2013, referred secondary schools to the official Sex and Relationship guidance (published July 2000) when teaching this area. Whilst the new National Curriculum does not apply to The King's School due to its Academy status, all secondary schools must provide age appropriate relationship and sex education lessons.

The national guidance (2000) defines sex and relationship education as 'lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage but most importantly for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.'

The RSE policy should be read in conjunction with the Science, RE and PSHE curriculum outline, together with appropriate school policies. The aim of the RSE programme is within the spirit of the school's philosophy and aims. It has three main elements: attitudes and values, personal and social skills and knowledge & understanding.

In the RSE programme we also fulfil the legal obligation to provide information about Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS. Given the increasing concerns about child sex abuse and exploitation and the risks associated with growing up in the digital world, the curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all of its learners, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to make the right choices and stay safe.

Our RSE is firmly rooted within the framework of PSHE and Citizenship. It involves working with the PSHE Association (the national advisory body leading on PSHE), our faith community and other health professionals.

Access to RSE within the curriculum must be based on equal opportunity with no student being denied access unless it is the express wish of their parent/guardian.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from RSE provided outside of National Curriculum Science.

RSE contributes to preparing students for "the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life." We aim to "take such steps as are reasonably practical to secure that where RSE is given to any student, it is given in such a manner as to encourage those students to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life."

Throughout Key Stage 3 and 4 students are encouraged to develop the range of personal and social skills needed for relationships with family and friends. These skills include:

- Negotiation skills
- Decision-making skills
- Assertiveness skills
- Listening skills

In addition, students are helped to recognise pressure from others, to be able to discuss relationships and recognise and express emotions, develop skills in challenging prejudice and valuing diversity. They are made aware of the help and advice available from sexual health and community services as well as other adults such as parents and carers.

Students are able to discuss a range of moral and social issues, including cultural attitudes towards sex and sexuality, contraception, abortion, the age of consent, domestic violence and the possible influences and pressures of social media.

Our Schemes of Work are devised in a collaborative process between Education and Health, working with and for young people with Peer Educators. It promotes their physical and emotional wellbeing supported by current resources which were approved by medical professionals. The long-term goal is to promote positive aspects of relationships, both emotional and physical and self-respect. More specifically the objectives of the project are to:

- Increase tolerance, respect and mutual understanding

- Enhance knowledge of risks and counteracting myths
- Improve effective contraceptive use by teenagers who are already sexually active
- Provide effective skills to those who wish to resist unwelcome pressure.

Training is provided and updated as appropriate for members of the teaching staff, school nurses and Year 12 students (peer-led sessions).

In Key Stage 3 and 4 students receive SRE by means of National Curriculum Science and PSHE lessons. In Key Stage 4, GCSE short course RE (Religion and Relationship module) is also part of the delivery.

Our policy is developed in consultation with students, parents and teaching and health personnel.

All complaints, be they written or verbal, must be communicated to the Headteacher who will either investigate the matter or delegate that responsibility to a Deputy Headteacher.