



## **RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY**

<b>Person(s) responsible for this policy</b>		<b>Deputy Head Mistress, Assistant Head of Prep (Pastoral)</b>	
<b>Last review by</b>	<b>J Hayes, G Cross</b>	<b>Review date</b>	<b>March 2021</b>
<b>Date of next review</b>		<b>September 2022</b>	

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Streatham & Clapham High School (SCHS) is an all-girls school with pupils of all abilities and backgrounds from 3 to 18 years of age.

1.2 The School's Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy has been developed by members of the pastoral staff, taking into account feedback from the pupils and parents.

1.3 'To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support' (Department for Education: *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory Guidance, 2019*, available at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/908013/Relationships\\_Education\\_Relationships\\_and\\_Sex\\_Education\\_RSE\\_and\\_Health\\_Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf))

1.4 Under the provisions of the Equality Act, SCHS does not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation (collectively known as the protected characteristics).

1.5 As with all teaching for these subjects, SCHS ensures that its teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate and delivered with reference to the law.

### **2 Aims of the RSE Policy**

- 2.1 To promote a discussion of family life and a child's place within a secure, loving relationship
- 2.2 To promote responsible attitudes with regard to relationships (including sexual relationships)
- 2.3 To promote sensitive, respectful and caring personal relationships
- 2.4 To encourage reflection on personal and social values

- 2.5 To reduce anxieties, misunderstanding and confusion
- 2.6 To develop self-esteem and self confidence
- 2.7 To encourage respect and consideration for others
- 2.8 To provide pupils with information and support
- 2.9 To increase awareness of all consequences of behaviour
- 2.10 To provide knowledge about loving relationships including LGBT+ relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction
- 2.11 To ensure the acquisition of understanding and the cultivation of attitudes in order to enable pupils to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner
- 2.12 To provide a programme which is tailored not only to the age but also the understanding of all pupils, including those with SEND
- 2.13 To present information in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, and to do so in a way that promotes awareness of the law on sexual behaviour
- 2.14 To encourage the development of social skills and strategies which will reduce the risk of exploitation, misunderstanding and abuse
- 2.15 To allow pupils to examine the physical and emotional implications of sexual behaviour and the need for all genders to behave responsibly in sexual matters
- 2.16 To develop awareness of pupils' gender and sexual identity, and to challenge sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and prejudice in society
- 2.17 To ensure that pupils have a clear understanding of sexual and reproductive biology, including knowledge of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases
- 2.18 To make pupils aware of the unrealistic nature of pornography both physically and emotionally.

These topics are taught as part of a planned, cohesive and coherent programme of study residing primarily in the School's (PSHCE/Jjuj) programme, Science and Philosophy and Religion lessons.

### **3 Content and Knowledge**

3.1 SCHS follows the statutory guidance from the Department for Education (see paragraph 1.3 above, hereafter known as 'DfE, 2019') in terms of the content of the health, relationships and sex education that teachers deliver.

#### **3.1 Prep School**

The DfE (2019) Regulations have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools. Streatham & Clapham may teach some aspects of sex education beyond the national curriculum for science as appropriate. Parents are able to request to see the resources that will be used in lessons and may contact Mr Mylne to discuss any concerns should they be considering withdrawing their daughter from these lessons.

Pupils in the Prep School will cover the following themes:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Consent
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe
- Mental wellbeing
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Changing adolescent body

### 3.2 Senior School

The focus of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Streatham & Clapham High School is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It enables them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship.

Pupils in the Senior School will cover the following themes:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendship
- Consent
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health
- What the law says about sex, relationships and young people as well as broader safeguarding issues. This includes a range of important facts and the rules regarding sharing personal information, pictures, videos and other material using technology
- Mental wellbeing
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Changing adolescent body

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex-education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Parents must write to the Head Master to make such a request. Following appropriate discussion, the school 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, SCHS will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms. If a pupil is excused from sex education SCHS will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. **There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.**

## **4 Organisation**

4.1 In the Prep School Relationships Education is taught by form teachers with the occasional involvement of the school nurse, as part of the PSHE programme from Coram Life Education. These lessons cover all aspects of PSHE, fully mapped to the PSHE Association Programmes of study and are mapped to the statutory guidance. This is known as SCARF and stands Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship. At the Senior School the programme is taught by teachers, form teachers, specialist speakers, with occasional support from school nurses, school counsellor.

The Assistant Head Prep and the Head of Jjuí are responsible for the planning, implementation, reviewing and monitoring of the RSE and Health Education programme, in consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Leads, the school nurse, pupils and tutors. The programme will be adapted annually to meet their changing needs.

## **5 Confidentiality**

5.1 In general pupils will be made aware that not all information can be kept confidential by tutors. In the event of disclosure of pregnancy, or a sexually transmitted infection (STI), the teacher will liaise directly with the School Nurse who will then liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The School Nurse will refer the pupil to their GP, who is responsible for determining the medical support and treatment available and would encourage the pupil to talk to her parents about the pregnancy or STI.

5.2 If the pupil discloses information relating to abuse, the teacher will liaise directly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

5.3 If the pupil approaches the School Nurse directly, she can maintain confidentiality, unless the disclosure relates to abuse, or the child is in immediate danger of harm, in which case the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will be invoked. (Please see the school's Safeguarding Policy available on its website).

5.4 Specifically, teachers and form tutors cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request should be honoured, unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional duty to:

- safeguard
- co-operate with a police investigation
- refer to external services
- or, where a life is in danger.

5.5 Medical / Counsellor confidentiality

In accordance with the Counsellor's and School Nurse's professional obligations, medical information about pupils, regardless of age, will remain confidential. However, in providing medical care for a pupil, it is recognised that on occasion the School Nurse may liaise with parents or guardians and the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and that information, ideally with the pupil's prior consent, will be passed on as appropriate. With all medical matters, the Counsellor and School Nurse will respect the pupil's confidence except in the very rare occasion when, having failed to persuade a pupil or his or her authorised representative, to give consent to divulgence, the Counsellor or School Nurse consider it in the pupil's best interests, or necessary for the protection of the wider community, to breach confidence and to pass the information on to a relevant person or body.

## **6 Contraceptive advice**

6.1 General advice on contraception at the Senior School forms part of the RSE and Health Education programme. The School Nurse can give confidential advice on contraception to pupils.

## **7 LGBT+ issues**

7.1 LGBT+ issues are integrated into the programme in an age-appropriate manner.

## **8 Parents**

8.1 The Relationship Education and Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education Policy and programme is available to parents on request and is available on the school's website.

## **9 Language**

9.1 The language used by staff during lessons should be age appropriate, not seek to discriminate or embarrass, and should not promote strong personal views. Pupils should be guided to follow the same values in their contributions to lessons and discussions.

## **10 Assessment**

10.1 SCHS has the same high expectations of the quality of pupils' work in these subjects as with other curriculum areas. A strong curriculum will build on the knowledge pupils have previously acquired, including other subjects, with regular feedback on pupils' progress.

10.2 Lessons will be planned to ensure that pupils of differing abilities, including the most able, are suitably challenged. Teaching will be assessed and assessments used to identify where pupils need extra support or intervention.

10.3 Whilst there is no formal examined assessment for these subjects, there are areas where SCHS may assess outcomes, for example tests, written assignments or self-evaluations to capture progress.