

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is always taught with due regard to moral and legal considerations and with the explicit values of family life and supportive relationships.

Introduction

RSE is part of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. At St John's, RSE is centred on personal safety, caring for others and building strong family relationships. This is coupled with teaching pupils about sexual health (including safe sex), and sexual healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

Effective relationship and sex education is essential if young people are to make responsible informed decisions about their lives. RSE at St John's is intended to help pupils learn about relationships, emotions, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual activity. We aim to present

1. Parents will not be able to withdraw their child from relationships education in primary or secondary school.
2. At secondary school level parents will be able to withdraw their child from sex education (other than the sex education which sits in the National Curriculum as part of science in maintained schools). However, a child will also have a right to opt into sex education from their 15th birthday (specifically three academic terms before they turn 16).

Staffing

The Head of PSHEE is responsible for coordinating RSE. RSE lessons are part of the E4L (Emotions for Learning) and PSHE (Physical, Social, Health and Economic Education) curriculum and as such are taught by the child's PSHEE teacher in Senior House and the Child Protection Teacher in Byron House. In Form 3 children also receive RSE lessons during their Science lessons looking at puberty and menstruation. All staff are trained in the delivery of E4L as part of their induction and ongoing professional development. Those who teach PSHEE are also provided with relevant training and support with regards to RSE.

Safety and Confidentiality

Staff make it clear to pupils what the School procedures are with regard to confidentiality. Similarly, if questions are asked in class or in assembly, adults will follow agreed practice based on DfE guidance 2000. Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue.

Teachers will consult the Reporting and Disclosure document which is available online and also in all teacher work and staffrooms.

How are resources used with reasons for their selection?

RSE resources are chosen and checked for:

- Being inclusive acknowledging the full spectrum of diversity in society
- Positive, healthy and unbiased messages
- Age and understanding appropriateness.

How will St John's deal with sexually explicit questions?

St John's will:

- Allow individual staff to use their professional judgement as to answering questions in front of the whole class or individually taking into account Safeguarding Policy.
- Encourage learners to ask their parents or any question outside the planned programme.
- Set out clear ground rules regarding personal questions, which are agreed by staff beforehand.
- Have designated adults that pupils know of to go to if they wish to talk.

What kind of language will be considered acceptable and appropriate for use in RSE lessons?

Staff will:

- Use the correct terms for all body parts
- Use clear, unequivocal language in an objective manner
- Discuss what 'slang' words mean and say that some can be seen as offensive.
- Staff will use

