

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Purpose of the Policy

Rosebery School believes that sex and relationship education makes an essential contribution to every students' health, wellbeing and preparation for adult life in society. Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. A comprehensive programme of sex and relationship education provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. It is an integral part of the PSHE programme within the school. Sex and relationship education is compulsory from age 11 onwards.

The aim of sex and relationship education policy is:

- To endorse the entitlement of all students in the school to sex and relationship education
- To confirm the coverage and scope of sex and relationship education in this school
- To ensure that appropriate guidance is available for staff that will deliver the programme of sex and relationship education in the school
- To specify the right of parents to withdraw their children from all or part of sex and relationship education

At Rosebery the sex and relationship education programme will cover three main elements:

Attitudes and values

- Learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
- Learning the value of family life and stable loving relationships for the nurture of children
- Learning the value of respect, love and care
- Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making

Personal and social skills

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others
- Learning to make choices based on understanding of differences and with an absence of prejudice
- Developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- Managing conflict
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

Knowledge and understanding

- Learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
- Understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- Learning about contraception and the range of local and national health advice, contraception and support services (including education about HIV and AIDS and other STIs)
- Supporting students to make wise and informed choices regarding sexual activity
- Developing an awareness of sex and the law
- Developing an understanding of the diversity of relationships and sexuality
- An understanding of the difference between consenting and exploitative relationships

- Understanding internet safety issues such as sexting and sharing of images

It is expected that teachers will not allow their personal beliefs and attitudes to influence their teaching of sex and relationship education. Such provision is also part of the school's provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and as such teachers will encourage students to develop confidence and a clear awareness of their own beliefs and values and to develop a mutual understanding and respect between students for their diverse beliefs and values.

How is sex and relationship education organised?

It is not an isolated subject and therefore it permeates the whole curriculum, the ethos of the school, and the pastoral system. Many subjects, but particularly Science, Religious Education, Drama and English explore some elements of sex and relationship education as well as our fortnightly PSHE sessions and tutor time. External speakers and subject specialists are used for certain sensitive topics to ensure the correct up to date information is given, for example the School Nurse, the Samaritans, the Police and DOVE (my changing body)

Personal, Social and Health Education Sex and Relationship content

Year 7

Growing Up: My Changing body
Relationships
E-Safety

Year 8

Maturing: Teenage Focus
E-Safety

Year 9

My Changing Body
Contraception
Child Sexual Exploitation
Sex and the Law
E-Safety

Year 10

Looking after myself: Relationships
Healthy Relationships
Alternative Relationships
Sexually Transmitted Infections
Contraception
E-Safety

Year 11

Developing relationships
FGM
E-Safety

How is sex and relationship education taught?

The school recognises the need to begin with the students' own experiences, beliefs and values and therefore places a great importance on creating a supportive and secure climate for learning where they can develop the confidence needed to talk, listen and think about sex and relationships. In order to do this teachers:

- Establish ground rules with students which are constantly reviewed
- Emphasise the importance of mutual respect
- Require no open personal disclosures in a class setting
- Provide anonymity by using a question box
- Encourage reflection
- Topics reviewed in tutor time to provide further discussion and understanding

Right of withdrawal

Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex and relationship education provided. They do not, however, have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are included in the National Curriculum for Science.