



## Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

The aims of the policy are:

- To place the teaching of RSE in the wider context
- To outline procedures for the training of teachers and consultation of parents
- To outline how RSE is delivered at HWPS
- To summarize the law and legislation relating to sex and young adults
- To provide links to other policies and agencies

### **Executive summary**

RSE is compulsory from age 11 onwards. It involves teaching children about reproduction, sexuality and sexual health. It does not promote early sexual activity or any particular sexual orientation. Some parts of RSE are compulsory in the Primary and Secondary Curriculum (before age 11) - these are part of the National Curriculum for Science. Parents can withdraw their children from all other parts of RSE if they choose. All schools must have a written policy on RSE, which they must make available to parents for free.

### **Wider Context**

For many years, it has been debated whether PSHE and RSE should be a statutory subjects in Primary Schools.

There have been many calls for statutory RSE and/or PSHE from leading parent representative bodies such as Mumsnet and PTA UK. A recent YouGov poll shows that 91% of parents believe all pupils should receive PSHE lessons to teach about the risks of sexting, as well as other issues such as contact from strangers online. A recent Barnardo's poll of 11-15 year olds also showed that 74% believed that children would be safer if they had age appropriate classes on RSE (DFE 2017).

**Despite this, RSE and PSHE remain non-statutory subjects for children under the age of 11.**

In a whitepaper presented to DFE in 2017, the proposed curriculum for Primary RSE was outlined:

“It will likely focus on:

- different types of relationships, including friendships, family relationships, dealing with strangers and, at secondary school, intimate relationships;
- how to recognize, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for others, commitment, tolerance, boundaries and consent, and how to manage conflict, and also how to recognize unhealthy relationships;
- how relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health;

- healthy relationships and safety online; and
- factual knowledge, at secondary school, around sex, sexual health and sexuality, set firmly within the context of relationships.

The review work will determine what statutory PSHE could look like in the context of statutory Relationships and RSE, and will also consider age-appropriate content and guidance. We would expect this to cover broad pillars of:

- healthy bodies and lifestyles, including keeping safe, puberty, drugs and alcohol education;
- healthy minds, including emotional wellbeing, resilience, mental health;
- economic wellbeing and financial capability;
- careers education, preparation for the workplace and making a positive contribution to society."

**(DFE 2017)**

**As a result of this, at HWPS, we have designed our own bespoke PSHE and RSE curriculum based this guidance form the DFE.**

### **HWPS RSE Curriculum**

In September 2017, we launched our new PSHE Curriculum, based on The PSHE Foundation's Objectives. The RSE Scheme of Work that we are using is Channel 4s Living and Growing. The programmes in this series gently introduce sex education to younger children from childhood through adolescence into adulthood. An Inset programme and a programme notes booklet are also included with the DVD to provide guidance for teachers, parents and governors. The units of work are:

#### **Unit 1 (Age 5-7)**

- Differences
- How Did I Get Here?
- Growing Up

#### **Unit 2 (Age 7-11)**

- Changes
- Girl Talk
- Boy Talk

#### **Unit 3 (Age 7-11)**

- How Babies Are Made
- How Babies are Born

### **Why is it important to teach RSE even though it is non-statutory?**

#### **Teenage Pregnancy Statistics 2016**

Britain still has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Western Europe despite being one of the world's biggest users of contraceptives.

The figures which appeared in a large- scale international study, appeared to explode claims by the sex education lobby that the UK's sky-high teenage birth rate is down to ignorance.

## **Why is RSE important at HWPS?**

“Conception rates in England and Wales, for women aged under 18, declined by 8% in 2015. Similar decreases were recorded for both maternities and abortions in this age group. Under 18 conception rates have declined by 55% since 1998, whilst for women aged 30 and over conception rates have increased by 34%.” – Office for National Statistics – Latest Release 2015.

Since SRE has been a focus for the past 10 years – impact is now evident in the reduction of teenage pregnancy and the choices women are making in having children over the age of 30. This work needs to continue so that women can make informed choices and make decisions for their well-being, whether that be having a career or their own family.

Gloucester’s teenage pregnancies were 26.1 out of 1000 and in Cheltenham 11.2 out of 1000 women in 2015-17.

Hester’s Way is considered to be a “Hot Spot” for teenage pregnancy in the Teenage Pregnancy Unit Report of 2010.

### **Training teachers and consulting with parents**

Staff at HWPS are trained through staff meetings and Inset days about RSE and how to deliver the schemes of work confidently but sensitively. Class teachers teach their own mixed-gender classes RSE. Ground rules are established prior to each lesson to ensure that children respect one another’s responses and engage appropriately in the lesson.

Prior to any RSE lessons, a letter is sent home to Parents/ Carers specifying what is being taught, giving the parents a chance to view the lesson materials prior to the lesson and allowing parents to withdraw their child if they wish.

### **Sex and legislation**

#### ***The age of consent for sex - England and Wales***

The age of consent to any form of sexual activity is 16 for both men and women. The age of consent is the same regardless of the gender or sexual orientation of a person and whether the sexual activity is between people of the same or different gender.

It is an offence for anyone to have any sexual activity with a person under the age of 16. However, Home Office guidance is clear that there is no intention to prosecute teenagers under the age of 16 where both mutually agree and where they are of a similar age.

It is an offence for a person aged 18 or over to have any sexual activity with a person under the age of 18 if the older person holds a position of trust (for example a teacher or social worker) as such sexual activity is an abuse of the position of trust.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 provides specific legal protection for children aged 12 and under who cannot legally give their consent to any form of sexual activity. There is a maximum sentence of life imprisonment for rape, assault by penetration, and causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity (**Family Planning Association 2017**).

### **Links to other policies and agencies**

PSCHE Curriculum  
Behaviour Policy

Safe-guarding & Child Protection  
Science Curriculum  
E-Safety Policy

NSPCC – see website for teaching resources and tools; parent, child and teacher’s information

Think u Know – CEOP tools for teaching children about keeping safe on the internet

This policy was written by the PSHE/RSE Leader in September 2017.

To be reviewed in September 2020.

Ratified by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_