Relationship and Sex Education Policy Including EYFS

Abbotsford Preparatory School

1. Introduction

Our policy reflects the DfE guidance, in particular 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' (DfE, 2021).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the policies listed below:

- PSHCE
- Curriculum
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Teaching and Learning

The policy is based on the principle that young people are entitled to responsible and relevant sex & relationship education in preparation for adulthood.

This policy covers our school's approach to RSE (Relationships and Sex Education); a statutory component of the PSHCE and Citizenship Curriculum from September 2020. This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, students and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

- Review – a working group of staff members pulled together the relevant information including relevant national and local guidance;
- Staff Consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations;
- Parent Consultations – parents were informed and given opportunity to complete a questionnaire on the implementation and content of the proposed RSE Scheme of Work;
- Student Consultation – students will be given opportunity during the School year to feedback on their RSE lessons;
- Ratification – once amendments were made; the policy was shared with the governors and ratified.
- Amendments – at least once a year, the policy is reviewed in consultation with staff, students and parents

We define "relationships and sex education" as learning about the many strands of relationship and growing up. This includes family relationship, friendships and relationships with peers and adults, healthy and unhealthy relationships, the characteristics of positive relationships, relationships online and the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up.

We believe relationships and sex education is important for our students and our school because every student should be provided with open, honest, accurate and age-appropriate lessons about relationships. Through our school's ethos and values, we aim to develop student's knowledge, skills, opinions, strategies and confidence – enabling them to cope with life and live safely and happily in the modern world.

We highly value the partnership between school and home and actively promote open and informative two-way communication. We aim to provide parents and carers with accurate information about what their child is learning in school and to provide the best learning environment and opportunities for our students.

Our Relationships Education curriculum is inclusive and meets the needs of all students, including those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). We also aim to promote gender equality and represent the LGBT+ community through our Relationships curriculum.

The intended outcomes of our programme are that students will:

- know and understand a variety of relationships;
- develop an understanding of their rights and responsibilities within a range of relationships;
- develop the skills of communication, recognising potential risks, assertiveness, seeking help, informed decision making, self respect and empathy for others, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and managing conflict;
- develop an awareness of the process of growing up and the changes they and others will experience.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The RSE programme will be led by the Headteacher. It will be taught by class teachers and supported by the SLT.

3. Curriculum Design

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHCE education provision and supports the objectives set out by the PSHE Association which meet the statutory requirements for Key Stages for 1 & 2. Learning in Relationships Education lessons will link to RE, PSHCE, English, Humanities and Science. Our lessons will be differentiated where appropriate, ensuring all students are able to participate fully. RSE must be accessible for all pupils, and we take into consideration when designing and teaching these subjects that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues on account of their SEND.
Students will be given the opportunity to reflect on and evaluate their learning – assessment opportunities are built into every lesson. Our RSE Scheme of Work programme is attached. Lessons will be delivered through a variety of teaching methods and interactive activities such as discussion, role play, drama and worksheets.

4. Safe and Effective Practice

Teachers will establish a safe learning environment by agreeing ground rules with the class before each lesson starts. "Difficult" questions from students will be dealt with in class if appropriate or privately with the student and a member of the SLT. Any safeguarding issues will be immediately brought to the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs Howard and/or Deputy Mrs Williams. A question box will be provided so that students can have the option to write down their questions and receive an answer on a one-to-one basis rather than in front of the whole class. Distancing techniques will be employed using fictional characters and scenarios rather than discussing their own lives and experiences.

5. Parents right to withdraw

Parents and Carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of the non-statutory components of RSE, with the exception of the objectives included in National Curriculum science. Before doing so, parents are encouraged to talk to the class teacher first. Requests for withdrawal

must be put in writing and addressed to the Headteacher. A copy will be placed in the student's educational record. Alternative work will be provided to any student withdrawn from RSE

Young people can opt into sex education from 3 terms before their 16th birthday. Parents will not have the option to withdraw their children from Relationships Education or Health Education. Schools are advised to keep a record of the process of dialogue with parents relating to requests to withdraw from sex education.

Date	Position	Name of Reviewer	Date of Next Review
August 2025	Headteacher	C Howard	August 2026
August 2025	Proprietor	Mr A. Khan	August 2026