



## ST HELEN AND ST KATHARINE

### SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE) POLICY

This policy was developed in response to Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfES 2000), the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and National Healthy Schools Programme.

#### DEFINITION

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is focused on the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes to make informed decisions about sexual behaviour.

#### OTHER RELATED POLICIES

Personal Development Policy  
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

#### AIMS

The aim of SRE is to provide pupils for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgments and behaviour.
- have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others, respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity.
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary.

- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ORGANISATION**

We seek to achieve these aims through the taught curriculum and through a planned programme of PD (Personal Development) lessons from Year 5 to Year 11. Related topics form part of the General Studies programme for pupils in Sixth Form.

It is the responsibility of the Head of PD to plan the SRE curriculum and to prepare lessons with accurate and appropriate information for each year group from Year 7 to 11. Responsibility for SRE in Year 5 and Year 6 lies with the Head of the Junior Department and responsibility for SRE in the Sixth Form lies with the Head of General Studies and the Head of Sixth Form.

The SRE curriculum is delivered by a team of trained SHSK staff in the presence of the Form tutors who are able to deal with any follow up questions on issues. SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PD curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The physical aspects of development and reproduction are taught by staff in the science department.

SRE lessons may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

Staff will be provided with in-service training and up to date reference material by the Head of PD and the school counsellor and the school nurse. Visiting speakers will cover some aspects of the SRE curriculum.

## **CODE OF PRACTICE**

Teachers who contribute to the delivery of SRE either as a class or when talking to pupils individually should make it clear that they cannot guarantee confidentiality. They may need to pass on information if they believe it to be in the best interests of the pupil concerned.

In a case where a teacher learns from a pupil under the age of 16 that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse they will take the following steps:

- the pupil will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parents/carers and if necessary to seek medical advice.

- the teacher will ensure that the pupil understands that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and that the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) must be informed. The pupil should be reassured that they will be informed if further action is going to be taken.
- the teacher will contact the DSL who will consider next steps, including referral under the school's Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy or use of the Health Centre and they will agree next steps as appropriate.

The content of the SRE curriculum will be made available to parents through the Parents' Handbook on the website.

During Year 9 and Year 10 a letter will be sent to parents in the weekly mailing alerting them to the forthcoming PD sessions on sexual, mental health and body image issues. This will include information on how to contact the Head of PD for further information should they require it, and to withdraw their daughter from SRE sessions, if it is their wish.

Parents have the right to withdraw their daughter from all or part of the SRE programme, other than those elements that are required by the National Curriculum Science Order (the biological aspects of human development and reproduction). The right of parents to withdraw their daughter may be exercised by either parent or by a person who has responsibility for or care of the girl. Parents do not have to give reasons for their decisions; nor do they have to indicate what other arrangements they intend to make for providing sex education for their daughter. However, parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SRE**

It is the responsibility of the Head of PD to organise and oversee the monitoring and evaluation of SRE.

The PD Reference Group (consisting of the Head of PD, a School Governor, a school parent, the Director of Students, and the Heads of Lower and Middle School) is responsible for reviewing the PD programme annually, ensuring a coherent provision for all year groups and recommending changes as necessary. The group is also responsible for reviewing the Sex Education and Relationships Policy every two years to ensure a current and appropriate provision for all year groups.

ISI is required to evaluate and report on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's sex and relationship education policy, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.

Next review due .....Trinity 2018  
Person responsible for review:..... Head of PD/Director of Students  
Audience: .....Staff/Parents