



## **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy**

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2019-20

### **A Summary for Parents**

The Trustees of Hollygirt School believe that Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is part of the educational entitlement of all pupils. All young people, whatever their ability, develop physically and emotionally, and need to be helped to understand their bodies and their feelings. RSE helps the pupils' overall development, confidence and self-esteem.

The law requires schools to provide a compulsory programme of RSE. The RSE programme we offer at Hollygirt is planned to take account of the pupils' age, maturity and physical development. The programme will be taught by class teachers, Issues and Science teachers. Outside speakers will augment the programme where appropriate, and all discussions will be tailored to the maturity and understanding of the pupils.

This policy applies to all pupils at Hollygirt School.

### **Aims**

Hollygirt School believes that RSE is an educational entitlement of all pupils and an integral part of each pupil's emergence into adulthood. All teaching stresses the importance of a secure family unit and emphasises the need to gain a sense of responsibility, self-respect and self-discipline.

All lessons covering RSE aim to give the pupils a sound knowledge of their own bodies and sufficient information about the subjects under discussion, so that they are able to make informed choices as responsible, disciplined and independent members of society. Questions are always answered truthfully and openly, appropriate to the age, ability and background of the pupils.

### **Organisation**

There is no formal programme of RSE before Year 6 but any questions which arise out of situations at home or school are dealt with honestly and sensitively as part of a whole school policy. The area of 'Stranger Danger' is covered at various points throughout the Junior School's PSHE curriculum.

From Year 5 the topic of puberty is delivered through planned aspects within the Science and PSHE. Moral and ethical issues, arising from apparently unrelated topics in all National Curriculum subjects will continue to be discussed within the context of the subject, and as such will not be deemed as part of the sex education programme and therefore will not be subject to the parent right of withdrawal.

A variety of teaching approaches are used to give pupils relevant information, to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion, and to acquire appropriate skills.

### **Specific Issues**

### **Confidentiality and Advice**

- Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse - the school's child protection procedures will be invoked.
- Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception - the school will always encourage pupils to talk to their parents first, but opportunities are created for pupils to approach individual members of staff should they feel the need for further information or time to discuss individual problems. Confidentiality of the pupils will be respected as much as possible, save where there is a breach of law. Any problems which cannot be dealt with in school would, where appropriate, be referred to a trained professional, with the permission of the pupil and the Headmistress.

### **Family Life**

- The value of family life will be approached through a consideration of the qualities and relationships, within a family structure with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.
- As part of the RSE programme, issues of contraception, STIs, sexuality and abortion are addressed. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced way with the pupils being made aware of the difference between fact, opinion and religious belief.

### **Complaints Procedure**

- Any complaints about the RSE curriculum should be made to the Headmistress who will inform the Trustees.

### **Parental Partnership**

In line with the Government's directive, we accept that parents have the right to withdraw their children from non-national curriculum sex education. Parents requesting withdrawal will be invited to discuss their concerns with the Headmistress.

### **Implementation**

Please refer to PSHE (Juniors) and Issues (Seniors) Schemes of Work.

*Updated August 2019*