

## **A5 Sex and Relationship Education Policy**

**Draft: In Anticipation of September 2020**

### **Aims**

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare Students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help Students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach Students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

This policy is being developed in anticipation of new statutory requirements which come into force in September 2020. As such, it is a work in progress which reflects the School's current practice, whilst providing a timely opportunity for reviewing the content and application of the RSE provision. The policy will be developed in consultation with staff, students and parents. The consultation and policy development process will be implemented as follows:

- Staff consultation: all relevant school staff will be given the opportunity to examine the draft policy and make recommendations
- Parent/stakeholder consultation: parents and any other interested parties will be contacted by the PHSEE coordinator for feedback
- Student consultation: students will be consulted via Student Council and other student voice opportunities to share with us what they want/feel they need from the School's RSE programme
- Ratification: once the final version has been drafted, the policy will be presented to Governors and ratified

### **Definition**

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of Students, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

### **Curriculum**

The proposed curriculum is set out in Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

The final curriculum will be agreed following consultation with parents, Students and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of students. If students ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and do not feel the need to seek answers online.

### **Delivery of RSE**

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHEE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum.

As of September 2020 students will receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBTQ+ parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **The Governing Board**

The governing board will approve the RSE policy and hold the Principal to account for its implementation.

#### **The Principal**

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw Students from any non-statutory/non-science components of RSE.

#### **Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual students

- Responding appropriately to students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from any non-statutory/non-science components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Principal.

Rachel Branch, as the PHSEE Coordinator is responsible for teaching Sex and Relationships at The Purcell School.

### **Students**

Students are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

### **Parents' Right to Withdraw**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Principal.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the student's file. The Principal will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to students who are withdrawn from sex education.

### **Training**

Those staff who teach RSE will receive appropriate training as required. It is expected that those staff will engage in appropriate CPD at regular intervals.

The PHSEE Coordinator will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

### **Monitoring Arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PHSEE Coordinator through:

- Regular training
- Student feedback
- Learning walks
- Students' development in RSE is monitored as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the PHSEE Coordinator and the Head of Pastoral and Safeguarding. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing body.

<b>Policy author / reviewer:</b>	<b>Policy date / review date:</b>	<b>Next review due:</b>
R Branch/PB/ES	January 2020	