

# The Abbey School Policy for: Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

**Approved by Governors: March 2020**

**Subject Co-ordinator: Mrs A Rotherham**  
**Date of next review: March 2023**

## 1. Introduction

The development of the whole person is the central aim of the school. Students are encouraged to be self-disciplined and well-mannered but more importantly, have respect for themselves and others. The school actively seeks to work in partnership with parents, carers and related health professionals in order to achieve this goal.

This policy is followed throughout the school for the teaching of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) in accordance with DfE and Surrey County Council guidelines. It is essential that RSE is regarded as being complimentary and taught in unison so that students can explore the nature of relationships and consider their own developing sexuality whilst learning to value themselves and each other.

Students should have the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding that will enable them to manage their personal life in a responsible and healthy manner. They should have the opportunity to discuss RSE issues in an open and inclusive way showing awareness and sensitivity to all.

Parents will have access to the RSE policy via the school website and by request. Prior to a RSE topic being taught to any year group, a letter will be sent home giving parents for-warning and the opportunity to raise any queries that they may have with the PSHE lead teacher. The Abbey School recognises and values the concerns and opinions of parents and carers and welcomes open and constructive dialogue between respective parties.

This policy should be read in conjunction with school policies for Science; Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE); Equalities and the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Policy.

## 2. Aims

Students should, to the best of their ability, maturity and understanding be:

- supported through their physical, emotional and moral development in a safe and secure environment
- able to recognise and develop the values and behaviours associated with positive relationships
- prepared for puberty
- able to identify the location, names and functions of organs of the male and female reproductive systems and to describe the processes involved in reproduction
- prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- able to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications and risks of certain types of behaviour and to accept that both sexes must behave responsibly in sexual matters
- able to resist unwanted sexual attention, peer pressure or bullying on grounds of sexuality
- aware that choices have to be made and sometimes other people's choices have to be accepted in all situations and relationships
- aware of the law in relation to the age and giving of consent

### **3. Curriculum Delivery**

RSE is taught as a combined Science / PSHE module to consider the moral, cultural, spiritual and physical nature of a relationship as well as the scientific facts of human reproduction. Factual information on reproduction will be covered in Science lessons whilst the emotional aspects of sexual 'relationships' will be delivered in separate lessons organised in groups appropriate to individual student needs.

### **4. Resources**

A variety of multimedia resources and worksheets will be used including contraceptive resources as advised by health agencies. Reference is made to the Family Planning website [www.fpa.co.uk](http://www.fpa.co.uk). All resources may be viewed by parents.

#### *Contraceptive advice:*

General information about contraception is given as part of the Relationship and Sex module. Students will always be encouraged to seek further help and advice from parents/ carers and/ or health care professionals. However, individual advice and support will be given to students if required, as provided by the Student Support Team, when working in conjunction with parents/ carers who will have given their permission.

Where possible the school nurse will visit the school annually to deliver sessions on RSE to all KS4 students.

### **5. Monitoring**

Will be undertaken by the coordinators of Science and PSHE.

### **6. Health and Safety**

The Surrey guidelines for child protection procedures will be followed and the Head teacher, Deputy Head and Assistant Head are the named Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSLs).

Adequate and sensitive arrangements are in place to help girls cope with menstruation and with requests for sanitary protection.

Members of the community infected or affected by STIs, including HIV and Aids will be treated sensitively and the right of confidentiality and privacy will be respected. Support will be provided for those directly involved in the care of individuals. Strict hygiene procedures will be adhered to.

### **7. Equal Opportunities**

All students are entitled to receive relationship and sex education differentiated to meet the level of their understanding, regardless of gender, race or religion. However in some cases respect for the culture of minority and ethnic groups is essential and sensitivity is needed to encourage a healthy self-image and to avoid hurt or offence to individuals or families.

### **8. Confidentiality**

Ground rules will be set at the beginning of lessons regarding confidentiality. It will be made clear to students that staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, but they can be reassured that their best interests will be maintained and they will be encouraged to talk to their parents or carers. If confidentiality has to be broken the student will be informed first and then supported appropriately. If a disclosure or disclosures are made by a student the school's child protection procedure will be followed. Students will be informed of sources of confidential help, for example, via the school nurse or GP.

## **9. The right to withdraw students**

Parents and carers will be for-warned before the commenced teaching of a RSE module within any academic year. Following discussion with the school and Head Teacher, parents can withdraw their child from the 'sex' elements of RSE, although The Abbey School would strongly discourage any parent or carer to do so. Parents do not have a right to withdraw their child from Health education, Relationships or any other aspect of PSHE education. It should also be noted that three terms before a student turns 16 they can opt back in to sex education lessons against their parents' or carers' wishes. The school has a duty to provide sex education during one of the remaining three terms in this instance.

## **10. Complaints**

In the first instance any concerns may be discussed with the teacher involved but, if a parent prefers, they may talk directly to the Head Teacher or another member of the senior leadership team.