

NORWICH STEINER SCHOOL

www.norwichsteinerschool.co.uk Tel: 01603 611175

Policy for Relationship and Sex Education

March 2021

Policy Statement

This policy is designed to ensure that this school complies with the government's statutory guidance on relationship and sex education (RSE). The trustees, in consultation with the school management team, will ensure that the provision of sex and relationship education in this school is carried out in such a way that it encourages pupils to give due consideration to morality and the values of family life. This policy should be read alongside the RSE Curriculum document which sets out the school programme for sex and relationship education, which has been developed after consultation with older pupils, staff and the parents of those pupils who were registered with the school at the time, and is underpinned by the Steiner Waldorf ethos and curriculum.

The policy will be implemented at the start of the summer term, 2021.

The policy has been shared with all trustees, staff and parents and is available on the school website and for new parents on request.

The Aims of the Policy

The aim of the sex and relationship education policy is:

- to endorse the entitlement of all pupils in this school to sex and relationship education
- to confirm the coverage and scope of sex and relationship education in this school
- to ensure that appropriate training is available for the staff that will deliver the programme of sex and relationship education in this school
- to confirm the school's policy of consulting with parents on the content and delivery of the sex and relationship education programme in this school
- to specify the rights of parents to withdraw their children from all or part of sex and relationship education.

Entitlement

All primary aged pupils in this school will be entitled relationship education, and secondary aged pupils are also entitled to sex education. This school will provide a coherent, well-balanced programme of sex and relationship education that:

- reflects the age, developmental stage and maturity of the pupils
- meets the particular needs of boys and girls

Coverage and Scope of Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and relationship education at this school will include learning about physical, moral and emotional development.

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In learning about sex, sexuality and sexual health, the school will aim to ensure that pupils develop an understanding of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, and

the importance of marriage for family life.

The sex and relationship programme taught in this school will cover three main elements:

- attitudes and values
- personal and social skills
- knowledge and understanding.

Attitudes and Values

Attitudes and values will include:

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
- learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable loving relationships for the nurture of children
- learning the value of respect, love and care
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision making.

Personal and Social Skills

Personal and social skills will include:

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- learning to make choices based on understanding of differences and with an absence of prejudice
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- managing conflict
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and Understanding

Knowledge and understanding will include:

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national health advice, contraception and support services (including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases)
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

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Staff Training

All class teachers and class guardians will be expected to make some contribution to the programme of sex and relationship education offered in this school due to the fact that their pastoral role will make them natural recipients of pupils' questions.

Similarly support staff concerned with safeguarding and pupil welfare may be involved through the conversations they have with the pupils they support.

The main sex and relationship education programme will, however, be delivered by teachers with specialist subject knowledge supported by specialist external staff drawn from the local area health services as appropriate.

The trustees will ensure that staff receive regular training to the level of expertise appropriate to their role.

The delivery of the programme will also be dependent on the wider context provided through personal, social and health education and links to other areas of the Steiner Curriculum, and flexibility will be built in so that teachers may pick up on and respond to specific issues and topics arising as well as the individual needs of pupils. The programme will be reviewed and any revisions made after the first year of delivery.

Consultation with Parents

Parents have been included in the consultation process and invited to make their contribution to:

- the development of the programme
- the teaching of sex and relationship education.

Prior to the commencement of the sex and relationship programme, parents will be receive information about what is being taught and how it will be presented to their children.

RSE supplements guidance from home, so it is important that the school has an open dialogue with parents. We inform parents when SRE lessons are to take place and explain proposed content in parents' evenings. We welcome feedback from parents, and staff are happy to talk to them about any concerns that they may have.

Parents' Right of Withdrawal

Parents will have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex and relationship education provided.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are included in the National Curriculum for science. You cannot withdraw your child from Health Education or the Relationships Education element of Relationships and Sex Education, because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe.

Parents can ask for their child to be withdrawn from some or all of the Sex Education. Three school terms before a pupil turns 16 they can choose to receive Sex Education if they would like to.

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Safeguarding

While RSE makes an essential contribution to safeguarding children, it may bring about disclosures or raise safeguarding concerns. Teachers should inform the safeguarding team when RSE lessons are to take place, and if a member of staff believes a child is at risk or in danger, or has any other safeguarding concern, they should seek the advice of the DSLs [see Child Protection Policy].

Department for Education Guidance and Further Information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

Related School Policies and Documents

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- British Values Policy
- PHSE policy
- Internet Safety Policy

Review of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually, and in light of feedback from pupils, parents and staff.