



## **RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY (SECONDARY)**

This policy covers the approach of GES Secondary to the teaching of Relationships and Sex education (RSE), which is an integral part of a developmental PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic) education curriculum and contributes to safeguarding pupils. This policy requires that all members of the GES community feel valued and cared for, irrespective of age, gender, ability, creed, or race. Where a child has a special educational need or disability, staff should apply reasonable adjustments to this policy.

### **RATIONALE**

We define 'Relationships and Sex Education' as learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught through the Science and Computing curricula, and others are taught as part of PSHCE education. We consider that a comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. As well as providing knowledge and understanding, it also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and for staying safe, both on and offline.

The 2002 Education Act states that schools are required to provide a curriculum that 'prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.' RSE forms an essential element of such a curriculum, as laid out in the March 2017 Children and Social Work Bill, which makes RSE statutory for all pupils in key stages 3 and 4.

RSE also plays a vital part in meeting schools' safeguarding obligations, promoting pupils' emotional wellbeing, and improving their ability to achieve in school, as well as enabling them to learn about safety and risks within relationships.

### **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

We aim to provide our pupils with a school they love going to; a school centred around enquiry, creativity, expression and enjoyment, with an education that best prepares them with the skills and attributes they will need in their future.

We believe that Relationships and Sex Education is an integral part of our broader PSHCE curriculum, and that an effective approach will contribute to the following:

- equip our pupils with the skills they need to successfully manage the potential challenges of relationships in the modern world
- help pupils to gain an understanding of the difference between consenting and exploitative relationships
- help pupils to keep themselves safe from harm, both on and offline, enjoy their relationships and build confidence in accessing services if they need help and advice

- reduce early sexual activity, teenage conceptions, sexually transmitted infections, sexual exploitation and abuse, domestic violence and bullying
- enable students to develop better understanding of diversity and inclusion, a reduction in gender-based and homophobic prejudice, bullying and violence

## OUR PROGRAMME

Our RSE programme for Key Stage 3 aims to provide a comprehensive body of knowledge and understanding about sexual health in order to manage fertility and avoid infection. It follows the guidance set out by the PSHCE Association and covers the following areas:

- Year 7: Self-esteem, romance and friendships; Exploring family life
- Year 8: Introduction to sexuality and consent; Introduction to contraception including condoms and the pill
- Year 9: Healthy relationships and consent; The risks of STIs, sexting and pornography

We respect pupils' unique starting points by providing learning that is appropriate to their abilities, grounded in their prior learning and experiences, and respectful of any differences of faith, belief or culture. While promoting the School's values, we aim to ensure that our programme is balanced by providing opportunities to explore issues from a range of viewpoints.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND RIGHTS

We are committed to working with our parents to provide the best education for their children. We will offer support by notifying parents in advance when aspects of RSE are to be taught within the school's PSHCE education programme.

We fully respect and uphold the rights of parents to withdraw their children from aspects of the course. A more comprehensive break-down of the objectives and outcomes for each unit will be shared with parents in advance in order to help parents make an informed decision. Parents are welcome to discuss any questions or concerns with the Head of PSHCE and/or Assistant Head.

Pupils withdrawn from the programme will be provided with the opportunity to pursue independent study on site.

The right to withdraw from lessons relates only to RSE within the PSHCE education curriculum. It does not apply to the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction included in the Science curriculum, nor to the aspects of online safety within the Computing curriculum.

Staff are not empowered to maintain pupil confidentiality concerning anything which is known to be against the law. (Refer also to our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy)

The above content has been agreed in consultation with governors, SLT and teaching staff.

Simmi Doyle  
Head of PSHCE

Approved by the Board of Governors:

Review: July 2019