

BISHOP WORDSWORTH'S SCHOOL

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

A Statutory Policy

Definitions:

1. *'Parent(s)' includes guardian(s) or any person who has parental responsibility for the student or who has care of them.*
2. *'Is to', 'are to' and 'must' are obligatory. 'Should' is not obligatory but is good practice and is to be adhered to unless non-compliance can be justified.*

AIM

1. The aim of this Policy is to direct the level and extent of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Bishop Wordsworth's School (the School), and is produced in accordance with The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
2. The definition of RSE is giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It enables understanding of what healthy relationships and friendships look like. It covers acceptable and unacceptable behaviours in relationships, including the importance of consent and mutual respect. It helps students to understand the positive effects of good relationships on their mental well-being.

PARENTAL APPROVAL

3. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE, up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education. Under these circumstances, parents should write a letter to the Head, signed by all parents who have care of the student.
4. Parents have the right to comment and ask questions of teachers about any aspect of the RSE curriculum, or of this Policy.

CONTENT OF RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION CLASSES

5. RSE is to be taught primarily as part of the Personal, Health, Relationships and Social Education programme and aspects are also covered in Biology and Religious Education. Visiting speakers are used, where possible, to supplement and strengthen what we do in school. Consideration is made to ensure that the content is accessible to all students, including those with SEND, and the RSE curriculum complies with The Equality Act 2010. The main areas to be covered are:
 - a. Mammalian reproduction.
 - b. Human reproduction including male & female reproductive systems, the menstrual cycle, 'periods' & their effects etc; legal, moral, religious/spiritual, and emotional aspects of human sexuality; what happens during sexual intercourse; conception and contraception; Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and other potential hazards and complications.

- c. Moral, legal, religious, spiritual and emotional issues.
- d. Families, respectful relationships, including friendships, and responsibilities in relationships, including consent, grooming, coercion and harassment.
- e. Sexual stereotyping and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/questioning and others (LGBTQ+) awareness.
- f. Online safety and risks of social media, including child sexual exploitation and grooming.

SUBJECTS TO BE TAUGHT BY YEAR GROUP

6. **Year 7.** Mammalian reproduction including male and female reproductive anatomy. Courtship and sexual reproduction in other animals (in Biology lessons).

7. **Year 8.** Human sexual anatomy; human reproduction & related matters (as outlined above in sub-paras 3b and 3c above). The law with reference to sexual consent. Contraceptive methods and family planning. STIs and STDs. Attitudes and values to love and sex. The perils of pornography, sexting and safety on-line.

8. **Year 9.** Testicular, penile, prostate & breast cancers; Testicular Self Examination (TSE).

9. **Years 10 & 11.** Focus is on such matters as risk taking behaviour; responsibilities in relationships; attitudes to sex/ sexuality, including sexual stereotyping; parenting issues. Also revisits, in particular, STIs/STDs (signs/ symptoms, where to get help/ treatment, long-term consequences etc). Contraception (including demonstration of contraceptive devices, condom use and fitting) – reiteration of all key points previously covered. Consent and the Sexual Offences Act. In Biology, the mechanisms/hormonal control of the menstrual cycle is detailed along with sexual health and contraception and infertility treatments.

10. **Years 12 & 13.** PHRSE in the 6th form may include a general review of all or any sex education matters taught in KS 3 & 4, but is far more 'student led' and is to tend to focus on areas in which they show interest/concern. Students are reminded explicitly of the potential hazards of STIs and of the importance of conducting regular TSE and breast examination.

CHANGES IN LEGISLATION

11. If, during the currency of this Policy, any statute or statutory instrument is enacted that adds to, modifies or is in conflict with any provisions of the Policy, then the Policy will be deemed to include any such statutory provision to the extent necessary to make the Policy compliant with that provision.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

12. Monitoring is undertaken using established effectiveness indicators detailed in the PHRSE Scheme of Work

13. This Policy is to be reviewed annually. It was adopted by Governors on 9th October 2007 and the last years' review history is below:

26 th June 2019	Minor updates
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30 th June 2020	Minor updates
15 th June 2021	Minor updates
23 rd June 2022	Minor updates
20 th June 2023	Minor updates