



Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

1. Aims

- ⊙ To ensure that our students develop an understanding about sex and relationships that will help them mature into responsible, self-confident and happy young adults and citizens;
- ⊙ Promote the spiritual, cultural, mental and physical development of students at The Elmgreen School and within society;
- ⊙ Prepare our students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult-life.

2. Rationale

A caring and developmental RSE programme needs to be more than just biology and the fundamentals of reproduction. Young people want reassurance about their body image, behaviour, feelings and relationships. They also need knowledge and skills appropriate to their level of maturity and developmental needs.

They need to be given the opportunity to articulate their thoughts, doubts and anxieties within a safe and trusted environment in order that they can build the skills needed to make responsible decisions, communicate effectively and develop healthy and appropriate relationships.

Central to the SRE programme is the growth of self-esteem and taking responsibility for oneself and one's own actions. The development of pupils' self-esteem is essential to an effective health education programme. If young people feel positive and good about themselves, they are more likely to take care of themselves, think positively of other people, and therefore, develop non-exploitative, caring relationships. They are also less likely to be exploited by others.

This policy should also be read alongside the following school policies

- ⊙ Anti-Bullying Policy
- ⊙ Child Protection Policy
- ⊙ Behaviour Policy
- ⊙ Equalities Policy

3. Responsibilities

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of the RSE policy, liaison with the Governing Body and parents, work with external agencies and the training and support of staff. The Headteacher is also responsible for appointing a member of staff to be responsible as the RSE coordinator. The RSE coordinator is responsible for the day to day

implementation of the policy and oversight of the curriculum and delivery of RSE ; and is overseen by the Assistant Headteacher. The RSE coordinator is required to attend the Attendance Behaviour and Communications (ABC) Committee of the Governing body when requested. They are required to coordinate the details of the RSE programme and ensure staff have the necessary resources and skills.

4. Content of RSE at The Elmgreen School

The contents of the RSE element is developed in conjunction with the DFE guidance, the PSHE Association programme of study; and consultation with health professionals and parents. The School makes use of a wide range of materials to support the development of the RSE programme, including the Lambeth Health and Well Being Provider. As part of this process the students will also be consulted about their views of RSE needs. This policy includes an appendix of the broad areas which are covered in each Key Stage and Year group (Appendix 1).

By the end of each Key Stage students will:

- ⊗ Develop positive values, a moral and ethical framework that will guide their decisions, judgments and behaviours
- ⊗ Develop the skills to avoid being pressured into unwanted situations
- ⊗ Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within all relationships
- ⊗ Have the confidence and self-esteem to value and respect themselves
- ⊗ Have the skills to judge what kind of relationships they would like
- ⊗ Be able to communicate their thoughts and feelings effectively
- ⊗ Avoid being exploited or exploiting others
- ⊗ Access confidential sexual health advice and support
- ⊗ Know how the law applies to sexual relationships

Gender specific workshops, where appropriate, are run to provide opportunities to discuss gender sensitive issues such as the management of body changes.

5. Delivery

The RSE curriculum is specifically taught through the PSHE programme of study through Tutor Time, assemblies, Science, other subject curriculum lessons and Elmgreen Days. RSE lessons are taught by teachers and tutors who are trained to deal with the content of this curriculum and how to deliver it in a sensitive and effective way with support of other professional where appropriate. The delivery of the RSE curriculum utilizes outside agencies to help deliver aspects of the learning, in particular where specific expertise would be beneficial. The School also utilizes the Lambeth Health and Wellbeing provider which is funded by Lambeth to deliver aspects of RSE in schools.

Key Stage 3 Science

Students are taught RSE as part of the statutory National Curriculum for Science as outlined below:

- ⊗ That fertilisation in humans... is the fusion of a male and female cell
- ⊗ About the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence
- ⊗ About the human reproductive system, including the menstrual cycle, sexual intercourse and fertilization
- ⊗ How the foetus develops in the uterus

Key Stage 4 Science

Pupils will be taught RSE as part of the statutory National Curriculum for Science as outlined below:

- ⊗ The way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones
- ⊗ Some medical uses of hormones, including the control and promotion of fertility
- ⊗ How pathogens are transmitted including STI and the defence mechanisms of the body
- ⊗ How sex is determined in humans

The RSE coordinator and Head of Science will liaise over the content delivered in science lessons and wider issues that may be raised in the lessons by students but that would have not been appropriate to address in the science lesson. The RSE coordinator then ensure these issues are covered in the RSE curriculum or that appropriate individual guidance, support or professional referral is organised. The objective is always to ensure the most appropriate and relevant curriculum for our students.

6. Assessment

Assessment of students' progress is carried out during every lesson through peer and self-assessment, linked to the learning objectives. This aim is to assess:

- ⊗ Students' knowledge and understanding of RSE
- ⊗ Students' inter-personal skills
- ⊗ Students' attitudes

Feedback from this is co-ordinated from the RSE coordinator to modify the curriculum where appropriate to better meet the needs of our students.

7. Parents/Carers' involvement

Parents/Carers are key people in:

- ⊗ Teaching their children about sex and relationships
- ⊗ Helping children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up
- ⊗ Preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities that sexual maturity brings
- ⊗ Working with the School to ensure learning and knowledge is not affected where a student has been absent from a RSE session

8. Parents/Carers' rights of withdrawal

Significant aspects of sex and relationship education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science (please see point 5). These must be taught to all students and parents/carers cannot withdraw students from such lessons. The parental right to withdraw their son or daughter from sex education lessons: Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order.

Parents/Carers can withdraw their children from sex and relationship education outside the National Curriculum Science requirements; however the school would actively discourage any parent/carer from doing so. It is realised that, under exceptional circumstances, a very small number of parents may wish to exclude their children from this programme. In this case, such parents must write to the Headteacher, stating their objections. It is then the responsibility of the parent to provide the student with alternative work to undertake while the sex education lessons are being undertaken.

9. Providing a secure learning environment for RSE

The Elmgreen Way and The Elmgreen Learner enable the School to provide a learning environment, which is appropriately caring, supportive, safe and Respectful for the delivery of RSE. Students' views and needs are valued and they are in a supportive environment where they are not and will not be judged, in accordance with the Equalities Policy, protective characteristics and British Values.

Staff work to create an environment in which all students are encouraged to develop self-awareness, self-esteem, confidence and a sense of independence and responsibility. All incidences of bullying or harassment will be dealt with in line with the Schools Anti-Bullying Policy and all lessons are led by the working agreement and restorative justice approach.

10. Dealing with Difficult Questions:

Students asking questions deemed personal should be reminded of working agreement and ground Rules. If a question is too explicit and is inappropriate for the whole class or raises concerns, the teacher should acknowledge it and attend to it later on an individual basis and if needed seek advice from the RSE co-ordinator. If the answer is unknown the member of staff should acknowledge this and where appropriate try and ensure that the issue is addressed at a later time. If a teacher is concerned that a pupil is at risk of sexual abuse, they should follow the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.

11. Confidentiality and reference to child protection procedures

Wherever appropriate, teachers encourage all pupils to discuss their concerns with an appropriate adult. The negotiation of 'Ground Rules' in accordance with The Elmgreen Way in RSE sessions is important for this reason. Teachers should make it clear to students the

level of confidentiality that they can offer. Due to the guidelines in the Child Protection Policy, teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute Confidentiality. With regard to staff training, The Headteacher and RSE coordinator ensures that staff (teachers and support staff) receive the appropriate training in RSE and the handling issues that they might come across.

12. Governor involvement

There is a named Governor as part of the Attendance Behaviour and Communications (ABC) Committee whose responsibility it is to liaise with the RSE coordinator on the delivery of the RSE programme.

13. The use of External Agencies in delivering RSE

The RSE coordinator is responsible for liaising with appropriate health bodies and the relevant Local Authority support agencies and keeping the Headteacher informed of discussions about activities and resources. Other outside agencies such as the Lambeth Youth Council Peer Educators may be used to provide support for the delivery of RSE lessons and our School Health Drop-ins. All visitors working within school will be directed by this policy.

14. Provision of Education for Pregnant Teenagers and School Aged Parents

We work in accordance with the Lambeth Inclusion Team Teenage Pregnancy Guidelines.

15. Monitoring and Evaluation of RSE

The Attendance Behaviour and Communications Committee of the Governing Body receive an annual report on the implementation of the policy to assess its effectiveness and whether changes are necessary. This will be the responsibility of the RSE coordinator. Any change will be notified to staff, parents/carers.

Policy Created and approved by governing body June 2009

Review Period 3 years

Last Review March 2018

Next Review March 2021

Appendix 1 – RSE Policy.

The teaching of RSE takes place within PSHE, assemblies, Science, curriculum lessons and Elmgreen Days. The curriculum is planned to ensure development of learning and building on previous year's knowledge. This plan is flexible and subject to change depending on issues that present themselves and decisions around the curriculum at a school and national level.

KS3			KS4		KS5
Puberty	Keeping Healthy - Sexual Health	Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV	Sexual Health and being a young adult.	Sexual Health and your future	Relationships and consent
What type of Relationships are there?	Pornography	Sexual Health, Sex & Consent	Sex & the Law	Positive Long Term Relationships	Gender and sexuality
	Positive Relationships	Communication in Relationships	Relationships & Family Planning (including economic planning)	Dealing with conflict	STIs and contraception
	SCIENCE: Reproductive Systems.	Diversity in relationships		Accessing services in the community.	