



Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Sex and Relationship Education

At Kimbolton School the objective of Relationship and Sex (RSE) is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional, moral and cultural development. We follow the guidance as stated in Department of Education RSE and Health Education Statutory Guidance 2020. Our programme is firmly embedded in the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Sixth Form citizenship and academic curriculum and will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence through adolescence into adulthood.

The Teaching of Sex and Relationship Education

At Kimbolton School we believe that the best possible form of education is delivered by the teachers who know our young people well and are aware of their needs. However, we do use outside visitors to support class teaching. There will be close liaison between any visitors and the teacher in charge, and no visitors will be left alone to run a lesson without a teacher being present.

Teaching methods take account of the developmental differences of young people and we recognise that at times it will be appropriate for discussion to take place on a one to one basis or in small groups.

For some young people it is not culturally appropriate to address certain issues in mixed sex groups. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of sex education within the PSHE programme. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should in the first instance contact the Headmaster to discuss the matter. This will then be considered in line with the RSE and Health Education Statutory Guidance. Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) will be given any support required to access and learn about sex and relationship lessons. Teachers are offered support and training in answering questions that are not best dealt with in front of the whole class and pupils can be directed to other adults in school as well as other sources of information when necessary.

The Teaching Programme for Relationship and Sex Education

Through our Relationship and Sex Education teaching programme we will help young people to respect themselves and others and understand difference. Within the context of talking about relationships, our young people will be taught about the nature of marriage and its relevance for family life and the bringing up of children. The school recognises that there are strong, mutually supportive relationships outside marriage which will be the norm for some of our pupils. Therefore our young people will learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society while learning to respect and understand difference and diversity. Teaching in this area will be sensitive so as not to stigmatise young people on the basis of their home circumstances.

Puberty

The RSE is set within the context of PSHE and Science which means that as our young people reach puberty they will know and understand that they will change and develop, and will have confidence in managing the physical and emotional changes. Our teachers have set clear parameters as to what will be taught in a whole class setting and what will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Menstruation

Our teaching programme includes preparation for menstruation and we will also make adequate and sensitive arrangements to help young people cope with menstruation. We will also ensure that the school environment is conducive to privacy when dealing with requests for sanitary protection and disposal.

Answering difficult questions

Individual teachers will use their skill and discretion in these situations. On some occasions, our teachers are authorised to say to pupils that a question would be best answered by a parent or carer. In situations in which the nature of the question would suggest any Safeguarding issues, teachers are required to pass on this information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy.

Working with Parents

The School aims to work in partnership with parents and carers. Parents are informed what the School's PHSE programme includes and hope this complements and supports their role as parents. This process will include offering some support to parents in talking to their children about sex and relationships.

Confidentiality

The School has a clear and explicit confidentiality policy, which staff, pupils and parents understand. In the classroom this takes the form of ground rule setting as a first step.

We follow these principles with respect to confidentiality particularly with regard to underage pupil disclosure of actual or intended sexual behaviour:

- No teacher or other adult or member of staff operating within the school classroom setting will offer pupils unconditional confidentiality in the event of personal disclosure by the pupil in relation to his or her own current or intended behaviour or the behaviour of others including family members.
- In the event of a disclosure, the adult should follow the Safeguarding Policy.
- All pupils will be urged in the first instance to talk to parents/carers, or in some cases, other trusted adults, and they will be offered guidance and support in doing this.

It is important to state that teachers cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality and that it would only be in exceptional circumstances that parents/carers were not informed. We reassure pupils that if confidentiality has to be broken they will be informed first, their best interests will be maintained and then they will be supported

appropriately. If there is any possibility of abuse we will follow the school's Safeguarding Policy.

The School Nurses

The School Nurses have a very important supporting role in our school. School Nurses are bound by their professional codes of conduct as health professionals in a one to one situation with individual pupils when providing advice and guidance on health matters, including sexual health and behaviour. This will take place in the Health Centre, where pupils are encouraged to come in at break, lunchtime and before or after school. In these situations, health professionals will operate within their code of practice as a health professional which includes the option of offering fully confidential advice and guidance to young people. The School Counsellors are bound by their professional code of conduct as laid down by BACAP in a one to one situation with individual pupils. Information noticeboards are also set up occasionally in the 6th form common rooms, involving various PSHE topics, including Sex Education.

Working with the wider community

A range of people in the wider community including health professionals, parents, religious leaders and other visitors may also provide elements of RSE. People in the wider community have much to offer, bringing a new perspective and offering specialised knowledge, experience and resources.

Review and Evaluation

Our teaching programme will be reviewed regularly in consultation with teachers and our young people.

We will also encourage pupil feedback and actively seek this with a view to identifying where young people have misunderstandings, uncertainties or unanswered questions. Opportunities will be offered to pupils to ensure that they clarify such issues.

**Reviewed: Dec 2022
HFG & LAH**