



Pield Heath House R.C. School

Relationship and Sex Education Policy
(RSE)

MISSION STATEMENT

Vision, Mission & Values:

Our approach to education is underpinned by our core values and beliefs which are encapsulated in our Vision, Mission and Values:

Our Vision:

Our vision is to enable our young people to live life to the full in a challenging and constantly changing world.

Our Mission:

Pield Heath House School owes its existence and special character to the belief that God loves us. The daily life of the school is nurtured by the teachings of Christ who showed us the Fathers Love: to believe; to hope; to forgive; to love.

We are a well organised educational community in which all young people are of equal importance and are valued for the individuals they are, regardless of race, culture or background.

We aim to provide these ideals in our relationships within our community.

We provide an educational community that is holistic as well as formal by involving parents, governors, and the local community.

We give all young people the opportunity for educational development to the highest possible level.

We aim to develop each individual's talents, abilities, skills and understanding, in order that they may live life to the full.

Our Values

Pield Heath 'CARES'

We are **Committed** to working collaboratively and listening to each other's views and wishes so that we can achieve more together

We are **Aspirational** for ourselves and others and encourage everyone to achieve and celebrate their accomplishments

We treat everyone with **Respect** and dignity and celebrate difference

We **Empower** everyone to be the best they can be

We **Share** our gifts, time and talents generously in order for our community to flourish

Rationale

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in a school context is a positive opportunity to help young people mature into adulthood and this is particularly relevant for young people at Pield Heath House School. In a world that may exert different pressures and values, RSE will help them to make informed decisions. Pupils, as in all school contexts, will receive factual

knowledge on naturally occurring physiological changes, such as puberty. This will be contingent on their level of understanding, but throughout, there is a continual emphasis on values and on personal responsibility to self and others. Thus, our teaching in this area is aimed at encouraging students to have due regard for moral considerations within the context of Catholic ideals, whilst encouraging respect for those in other situations.

Parents and carers are the foremost educators of their children, and thus we view RSE education as informed by partnership. Parents and carers are offered practical support and guidance, both individually and through formal parents training programmes in order to help them tackle some of these difficult issues and challenges.

We are acutely aware of the vulnerabilities of our students, and look to incorporate advice and guidance from a range of specialised external professionals (e.g. CAMHS), who work particularly with young people with learning difficulties who may be at risk of developing sexually harmful behaviour. We have close and effective relationships with social care agencies and health care staff and are committed to ensuring that Pield Heath House School has an open culture in which we share concerns and worries about our young people freely.

Aims and Objectives

- To develop feelings of self-confidence, self-worth and self-respect, alongside those of value and respect for others.
- To promote responsible behaviour and to equip our pupils and their families with the means to keep safe in the face of ever greater risks, including in relation to online safety.
- To work in informed and trusting partnership with families and carers and other agencies
- To provide information on sensitive issues including contraception, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, with due consideration for pupils' levels of understanding and for Catholic teaching and values.
- To create a safe and positive environment in which young people feel they can raise concerns and worries.

Organisation:

It is a legal requirement that students of secondary age, in whatever type of school, receive a programme of RSE. The governors expect a basic programme of sex education and personal development to be part of every student's entitlement from the ages of 5-19, planned according to individual and group needs and development.

There will be times when gender groups will need to work alone and other times when students will be grouped according to their development and maturity. No teacher will be expected to undertake specific sex education teaching without the support of colleagues in the school and through attendance at training courses as necessary. We recognise that this subject needs to be taught sensitively and with confidence.

We expect support staff, who have much experience of the students, to be involved in planning, taking part in and evaluation of classroom work, although the overall responsibility rests with the teachers delivering the programme.

Teaching:

Relationships and Sex education is taught throughout the school at the appropriate level of maturity. The programme is delivered as discrete units in PSHE, Science, Knowledge of the World and R.E. All students experience a programme of sex education and personal development at a level which is commensurate with their age and physical development, with a clear focus on positive and healthy relationships. Pupils' understanding will be supported by total communication approaches including practical and multisensory cues. The programmes will be taught by teachers teaching the subjects.

Throughout the programme it is acknowledged that many issues contravening Catholic teaching will be encountered. These issues will be addressed within a framework which acknowledges that whereas these issues do not occasion fundamental changes in Catholic moral teaching, they do require our response in asserting the Gospel values of fidelity and chastity as well as forgiveness, compassion and concern for others. A Catholic approach will be used to deal with issues of controversy that students may be encountering. This should always be non-judgemental, whilst seeking to be compassionate towards and understanding of individuals and we embrace that all our students have the right of access to knowledge of the consequences of their choices and actions. Suitable opportunities and contexts will be sensitively sought to explain these consequences at appropriate levels of understanding and maturity.

We endeavour to enable our pupils to cope and manage their sexual development with appropriate support and to encourage growth where there is potential for growth, towards the ideal of fully functioning persons; remembering that we are all on our journey in Faith, in the process of being made whole in Christ.

Parents' rights to withdraw their children from sex education

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex education, although not from the elements which form part of their learning about reproduction as part of the circle of life within science lessons.

By working with parents and carers in a collaborative manner, experience has shown that parents recognise the value of RSE education for their children and we are optimistic that this will continue. Consent letters are sent to parents every year which outlines the benefits of students access RSE topics.

Monitoring the sex education policy and programme

The school will need to assess how effective are the aims, content and methods in promoting students' learning. Feedback from staff, parents, carers and students will help to judge this. This policy for RSE should be read alongside the RE policy, and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Updated September 2021 to be reviewed September 2022