



## SEX & RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Version: MAY 2019

Status	Statutory
Responsible Management Committee (MC)	Curriculum
Date last approved by MC	Under review
Responsible Person	Headteacher
To Review Date	JANUARY 2020
Last Amended Date	MAY 2019

### Rationale

At Herefordshire Pupil Referral Service (HPRS) we believe that Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) encourages self-respect and develops respect for others. It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

We recognise that effective sex education requires our pupils to examine and question their own attitudes and those of others. They will also need to consider their values and relationships in order to make decisions. Although the emphasis is towards attitudes and decision making skills, it is important to provide basic sexual information including safe sex practices, LGBT relationships and acceptance that there are many different sexual orientations.

### Aims

HPRS aims to meet its statutory duty to deliver Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) by:

- Providing a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Help pupils learn how to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Supporting pupils to develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- Ensure that our need to respect all members of our community is at the forefront of our minds when delivering SRE

### Statutory requirements

HPRS will have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996. At HPRS we teach SRE as set out in this policy.

## Definition of SRE

SRE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. SRE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values. SRE is not about the promotion of sexual activity. Parents/Carers who have concerns as to the nature of the topics covered in delivering SRE should in the first instance discuss these concerns and their wishes with the Headteacher.

## Delivery of SRE

SRE is taught within the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum, primarily through dedicated teaching sessions, tailored to specific year groups as appropriate. Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional. Pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions
- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness
- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision-making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work
- Appropriate online interaction and safety These skills are taught within the context of family life
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.
- Empower pupils with skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressure or advances

## Roles and Responsibilities

The Management Committee has delegated the approval of this policy to the Head of Centre. The Head of Centre is responsible for ensuring that SRE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of SRE. Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering SRE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to SRE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from components of SRE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching SRE. Staff who have concerns about teaching SRE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Pupils are expected to engage fully in SRE and, when discussing issues related to SRE, treat others with respect and sensitivity in line with the ethos of our school.

## Parents'/Carers Right to Withdraw

Parents'/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from components of SRE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Head of Centre. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupils' educational file. The Head of Centre will discuss the request with Parents'/Carers and take appropriate action. This will normally be to exceed to the wishes of the Parent/Carer, make alternate provision for the pupil(s) at the time SRE is taking place and continue to update Parents'/Carers so that changes in their wishes at a later time can be accommodated. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from SRE.

## SRE within the Curriculum

### PHSE at Key Stage 3 (years 7-9)

The emphasis in Key Stage 3 is on developing and maintaining relationships. Issues addressed include:

- What is friendship?
- Characteristics we find attractive in people;
- Sharing our thoughts and feelings;
- Image and the pressures young people are exposed to
- Problematic relationships and know where to seek help, support and guidance with this

### PHSE at Key Stage 4 (years 10-11)

The PHSE programme at Key Stage 4 includes:

- Understanding a range of relationships;
- Family lifestyles and sexuality, including an awareness of culture and individual differences and LGBT
- Understand the qualities and attributes that help form individuals' positive consensual relationships;
- Understand that individuals share rights and responsibilities within a relationship;
- Be aware of the law in relation to sex and sexuality;
- Understand how the body works in relation to sexual activity
- Understand the range and purpose of male and female contraception methods and knowledge of sexually transmitted infections
- Be aware of the agencies able to give help, advice and treatment on contraception and sexual health
- Communicate about sex, sexuality and relationships effectively

## Delivery and Monitoring Arrangements

The content and delivery of SRE is monitored by the Headteacher through:

- Ensuring relevant aspects are planned for in the annual delivery programme of PSHE/SRE
- Suitable materials are devised and provided to staff with appropriate training
- Monitoring the effectiveness of SRE through the observation of sessions
- Providing a respectful attitude to the wishes of Parents/Carers
- Reviewing the effectiveness of materials used in SRE
- Working closely with the School Nurse and other professionals to deliver appropriate SRE
- Monitoring and ensuring the sexual safety of pupils, advising as appropriate in line with our safeguarding responsibilities
- Ensuring equality of access to SRE