

**Policy:** Relationships and Sex Education Policy

**Approval:** Board of Trustees

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**CHELTENHAM  
BOURNSIDE  
SCHOOL**

**Policies**

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## 1. Aims

To provide knowledge and to develop the skills needed to make important choices in relation to sex and relationships.

- to encourage self-esteem, self-respect, and empathy
- to encourage personal responsibility and risk awareness in all forms of behaviour, especially in relationships with others
- to help students to understand their sexual feelings and behaviour and have respect towards each other
- Prepare students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Teach students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- to teach students about the nature of marriage and the importance of stable relationships
- to make students aware of where and how to obtain health information and help in emergencies
- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.

## 2. Organisation

- The programme of Relationships and Sex Education is delivered at times appropriate to children's needs and levels of development.
- Students are taught in mixed gender groups, within, mixed ability groups at KS3 and setted groups in KS4.
- Some aspects are repeated as the student moves up the school in order to check and develop knowledge, deepen understanding and consider more complex issues.
- The core content is delivered through the science and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) schemes of learning, but related issues may be discussed in other lessons if they arise from literature being studied or from a student's question. PSHE lessons appear on student timetables as 'Social Education' (SE - Years 7 to 9 and 12) and PSE/RE (PSRE - Years 10-11).
- Teachers establish a safe classroom environment in which no personal information is shared and no intrusive questions are asked of students or staff. Students are expected to show respect for the views and opinions of others.

## 3. Content

- The National Curriculum topic 'Reproduction' is covered in Year 7 science.
- The Year 8 and 9 PSCHEE scheme of learning looks at dating behaviour and associated responsibilities and risks.
- The Year 8 PSCHEE scheme of learning incorporates a visit from an external theatre company, in partnership with the Gloucestershire Children Safeguarding Board focusing on Child Sexual Exploitation and the risks of unhealthy relationships, including sexting.
- The Year 9 PSCHEE scheme of learning looks at the different sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) including HIV/AIDs and at the impact on families of high risk sexual behaviour. Sexuality is also covered in Year 9 PSHE lessons, with an emphasis on mutual respect and tolerance. Contraception is covered together with the consequences and responsibilities of unplanned pregnancies.
- The Year 10/11 PSHE scheme of learning checks knowledge on all aspects of sex education and considers myths and worries about sex. It looks at high risk behaviour in adolescence and at changing values over time. Students re-visit issues around relationships including domestic violence, sexting, pornography and abuse in teen relationships.

- In Year 10 and 11 science students learn about the science of *in vitro* fertilization and genetic disorders.
- All Year 12 students listen to talks delivered by health professionals on the topics of STIs, chlamydia and personal safety in relation to health.

#### **4. Advice for Individual Students**

Sex Education lessons make students aware of how to access confidential advice and medical treatment. The Gloucestershire Health Authority School Nurse offers a weekly 'drop-in' service on all health-related matters and provides confidential advice on request. Students are provided with contact information for sources of help and advice.

#### **5. Resources**

Resources will be checked and approved by the Head of Science, the Head of PSHE and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) line manager of relationships and sex education to ensure that:

- students are protected from inappropriate materials
- there is no stereotyping, bias or prejudice.

#### **6. The use of outside visiting speakers and health professionals**

- Visitors will only take part in sex education lessons with the agreement of the SLT line manager of sex education.
- Visiting speakers are made fully aware of the School's Relationships and Sex Educations Policy.
- All visitors are subject to the school's safeguarding policy.

#### **7. The right of parent/carers to withdraw their child from Sex Education**

Parent/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education delivered as part of RSE. Parent/carers cannot withdraw their child from the relationships education in RSE. Since September 2020, they can do this until 3 terms before their child turns 16 years of age. After that, it'll be the child's decision. Requests should be made, in writing, to the Headteacher. Parent/carers are not obliged to give their reasons for wishing to withdraw their child but are encouraged to discuss the matter with a senior member of staff.

#### **8. Consultation and Publication**

- The agreed policy will be published on the school website. Paper copies will be available from the school on request.
- The prospectus informs parent/carers of their right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education delivered as part of RSE.

#### **9. Links to other Policies**

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:**

- Anti-bullying
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality and Diversity.