



The Holt School Relationships and Sex Policy

January 2018

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1	January 2015	Policy review
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Committee	Standards & Curriculum
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The Holt School Relationships and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

Definition

Relationships and Sex Education is lifelong learning about sex, sexual health and sexuality, health and wellbeing (including mental health), intimate relationships and building healthy relationships and staying safe online. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

Aims and Objectives

In 2013, OFSTED found a strong correlation between outstanding PSHE education and outstanding schools. At The Holt we are committed to providing robust and effective RSE teaching and content which enables us to meet our responsibility relating to the safety and welfare of the students in our care. To that end we aim:

- To provide reliable information and the opportunity to discuss relationships and sex in a non-judgmental environment.
- To provide the opportunity for all students to consider and respond to the wide range of experiences that make up RSE.
- To enable students to manage their relationships, providing a reliable image, understanding and entitlement to positive sexual health.
- To be inclusive and ensure that sexual orientation and sexual reassignment is dealt with in an open and sensitive manner to ensure equality of opportunity.
- To enable students feel positive and good about themselves, so they are more likely to take care of themselves, think positively of other people, and therefore, develop non-exploitative, caring relationships.
- To support parents in their role as educators of relationships and sex.
- To ensure that students are taught the knowledge and life skills they need to stay safe and develop healthy and supportive relationships, particularly dealing with the challenges of growing up in an online world.

Provision and Delivery

RSE is taught by a team who are skilled and feel comfortable in delivering this topic. Members include experienced teachers, health professionals and other visiting speakers. Issues are discussed in several curriculum areas but Science is the main contributor and it is part of the PSHE programme.

There is flexibility in the delivery of the curriculum to ensure that it is sensitive to meeting the needs of our own students.

We place importance on sharing responsibility with parents for their children's sex and relationship education and will ensure information regarding the teaching of RSE at The Holt is made available on request. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from RSE lessons, although not those elements that are in the National Curriculum Orders for Science. If a parent is

considering withdrawing a child from RSE lessons, we ask that it be discussed with the Head of Year.

Morals and Values Framework

Students will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life and the responsibilities of parenthood.

They will consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs of others, loyalty and fidelity. They will consider the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour. The issues that arise from the increasing availability of pornography to young people and the problems that arise from this will also be discussed in SRE lessons. In addition, with advances in technology and its use, the risks around inappropriate use of social media, online bullying and harassment, sexting, grooming and exploitation.

Students will be given sex education in which the facts are presented in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour.

In planning and presenting a RSE programme, students will have the opportunity to express themselves within a trusted and safe environment. They will have the opportunity to articulate their thoughts, doubts and anxieties in order that they can build the skills needed to make responsible decisions, communicate effectively and develop healthy and appropriate relationships. Central to the RSE programme is the growth of self-esteem and taking responsibility for oneself and one's actions.

Equal Opportunities

In presenting information about health and sexual matters we will try to ensure that the different rates of physical and emotional development amongst students of the same year are considered. Questions from individual students will be handled sensitively. Sexual orientation and sexual reassignment will be discussed part of the RSE programme.

We will be aware of different religious and cultural views and in our use of resource material we will attempt to present a balanced view.

Specific Issues

All staff will be made aware of the school's Relationships and Sex Education policy and guidance will be available from the Head of PSHE.

Confidentiality – Teaching staff are trusted to use their professional judgment and deal with situations appropriately. Accordingly, a member of staff will encourage the student to seek advice from her parents, or, if appropriate, a qualified health professional. The school will inform parents and will make the student aware of this before any disclosure is made. The only circumstance where the parents will not be told is if the student is at risk of harm by informing them. Social Care will be contacted in this case. The school offers

a confidential service through the school nursing team and external counselling agencies. School can make a referral to the school nursing team.

If a member of staff believes that a child is at risk or in danger, or in breach of the law, she will talk to the designated lead for Safeguarding before any decision is made. The teacher is responsible for ensuring that the child is made aware of this and given the reasons why. The teacher will support the child throughout the process.

Contraceptive Advice – The school will provide general education about contraception. However, it is not the responsibility of any member of staff to give individual student advice on contraception. We will encourage individual students to seek advice from their parents and make them aware of appropriate health service professionals who can provide a comprehensive service.

Child Protection – Any member of staff having any reason to believe that a student is, or may have been, sexually abused or is at risk of sexual abuse, is required to immediately inform the designated lead for safeguarding, who will then implement the Authority's Child Protection procedures.

Use of Visitors – Some aspects of the RSE specification will be supported by visiting professionals. These visitors will be made aware of the school's RSE Policy and will be asked to discuss the material to be presented with the appropriate member of staff before the session. This will ensure the framework, within which the programme is delivered, is set and respected. They will be asked to provide an evaluation for completion by both students and the teacher concerned. A teacher will be present throughout the lesson, taking responsibility for discipline and contributing to the session if appropriate.

Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation

Monitoring, assessment and evaluation of RSE will be an on-going process. RSE will be reviewed annually and appropriate changes made.

Dissemination of the policy

This policy has been made available to all members of staff and parents through the school website.