



St. Francis' College

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Introduction

The 'College' refers to all the staff and pupils of the Prep department and Senior School which includes Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS), Pre-prep (Key Stage 1), Prep (Key Stage 2), and Senior School (Key Stages 3-5)

Aims of our Relationship and Sex Education policy

This policy covers the College's approach to relationships and sex education. We aim to provide a stimulating and supportive learning environment in which pupils can develop their feelings of self-worth and confidence especially in relationships with others. This will include:

- Providing a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Preparing pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Helping pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- Creating a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
- Teaching pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

Legislation (Statutory Regulations and Guidelines)

Department for Education statutory guidance states that from September 2020 all schools must deliver Relationships Education (Primary) and Relationships and Sex Education (Secondary).

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) Statutory guidance, from 1st September 2021, states that:

- Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Relevant issues for schools could be covered through Relationships Education (for all primary pupils), and Relationships and Sex Education (for all secondary pupils) and Health Education.

The College have obligations under the Equality Act 2010, including:

- A duty not to discriminate against the nine protected characteristics that are set out by the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).
- The Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate discrimination and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who don't;
- (c) Foster good relations across all characteristics, and between people who share a protected characteristic and people who don't.

Curriculum

The Department for Education's 'Statutory Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education' guidance sets out what schools must cover. The statutory guidance is comprehensively covered by learning opportunities for each key stage in our five-year programme for PSHE through three core themes: 'Health and Wellbeing', 'Relationships', and 'Living in the Wider World'. Even though much of 'Living in the Wider World' is not included in statutory requirements, this core theme is equally important. The PSHE programme also covers economic wellbeing and careers as well as education for personal safety, including assessing and managing risk.

Our curriculum overview for PSHE is set out below, but will be reviewed and updated once the period of consultation has ended in November 2021. The aim of this consultation is to gather the views of parents, pupils and staff and to take into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils, to create a curriculum that meets the needs of our school community.

Delivery of RSE

Prep School

The Prep School follows the guidelines of the Department for Education with respect to the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education. The objective to Relationships and Sex Education is to help to inform and support the pupils during their physical, emotional and moral development.

Relationship Education aims to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including within family, friends and online. This is taught throughout the Prep Department, from Kindergarten upwards as part of the PSHE programme and in Science as part of the curriculum.

The children will be taught what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them. In an age-appropriate way, the children will cover how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect.

Parents cannot withdraw their child from Relationships Education.

In the Prep School, some aspects of Sex Education are covered. We annually inform the parents the Sex Education topics are covered; this is currently during the Spring Term. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from parts of the Sex Education curriculum in line with the statutory guidance. The Science curriculum in the Prep School includes content on human development, including reproduction. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from this.

We recognise the need to supply accurate information and support to the children at the appropriate stages of their development. The staff should act as positive role models for the children and monitor the delivery of the Relationship and Sex Education programme in the Prep School.

Senior School

At secondary level, RSE is taught within the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RS) and Computing lessons (on-line safety).

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

These areas of learning are taught, within the context of family life, taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances. (Families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Materials used in the College will be in accordance with the law and age appropriate.

Partnership with parents/carers

Most of the pupil's informal sex and relationships education occurs within the family. The Colleges programme will complement and build on this in co-operation with parents and guardians.

Parent's' right' to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from certain components of sex education within RSE, within PSHE lessons, (any aspects of Sex Education, other than those which are part of the science curriculum) up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the Headmistress, stating reasons for the request. Parents will be invited into the college to discuss their relevant concerns with the Headmistress, to ensure their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. There is no right to withdraw from relationships education.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

Parents are informed, by letter of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum content that covers relationships and sex education and of any workshops provided by outside agencies relating to this.

This policy supports and compliments the following policies also available on the College VLE: Anti-bullying, Child Protection-Safeguarding, eSafety, Mental Health, PSHE.

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