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## Sex and relationship education policy

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## 1. Aims

The aims of sex and relationship education (SRE) at our school are to:

- Provide 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
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

## 2. Statutory requirements

Under [section 3.6 of the National Curriculum](#), SRE is compulsory from year 7 onwards.

Secondary schools must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Holly Lodge we teach SRE as set out in this policy.

## 3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their SRE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

## 4. Definition

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.**

## 5. Delivery of SRE

SRE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of SRE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Pupils may also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional during their time at Holly Lodge.

Across all Key Stages, 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

These skills are taught within the context of family life.

## **6. Roles and responsibilities**

### **6.1 The governing board**

The governing body will approve the SRE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

### **6.2 The headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that SRE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-science components of SRE (see section 7).

### **6.3 Staff**

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 the non-science 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.

### **6.4 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage fully in SRE and, when discussing issues related to SRE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

## **7. Parents' right to withdraw**

Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science components of SRE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the assistant headteacher who leads on personal development. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The assistant headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

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

## **8. Training**

All staff who deliver SRE will be trained on the delivery of SRE as part of their continuing professional development.

The assistant headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching SRE.

## **9. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of SRE is monitored by A Smyth, Assistant Headteacher through:

Learning walks, curriculum audits and student voice.

Pupils' development in SRE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by A Smyth, Assistant Headteacher, annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.

**EXPECT TO ACHIEVE**