

## Relationships and Sex Education Policy

### **Statutory Requirements and Catholic Church Education Guidance**

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and

2019 amend existing provisions in the Education Act 1996 and the Education Act 2002 and insert new provisions into the Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) Regulations 2007, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015. The new provisions include a requirement for the Secretary of State to publish guidance on Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education; require schools to have regard to that guidance; require schools to make a statement of policy on their provision of Relationships Education and RSE; and set out the circumstances in which a pupil is to be excused from RSE. As an Independent School the guidance in relation to Health Education is met under PSHE Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations 2014.

As the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education [0-0541-RESE-EN-19-01] (EN-19-01) by 2019-01-20 & 2019-01-20

## **Aims**

The aim of RSE at Woldingham is to give students the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It will enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. This will help students understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed. It should be read in conjunction with the Goals and Criteria of the Sacred Heart and the School's policy document on PSHE (Thrive).

## **Contents headings for relationships and sex education**

Families- including different types of committed stable relationships such as marriage and other long- term relationships.

The roles and responsibilities of parents

a cross-curricular approach. The result is a well-planned yet adaptable, integrated, progressive response to the needs of the students at each age and stage and responding sensitively to their experiences or to items in the news or in society generally.

A significant amount of RSE will be covered as part of Key Stage 3 Health Education, Science, Computer Science and Theology. In Key Stage 4, it is delivered through the Thrive Programme and the Science curriculum and builds on the moral values and decision-making aspects of Theology in Year 9. During some set Thrive sessions, external speakers and organisations who bring specific expertise about potentially sensitive issues are invited to run presentations and workshops for the students. There are formal and informal Thrive sessions with tutors throughout the year. All speakers are carefully selected to ensure their manner and style is known to suit the needs of the students. Please refer to the Thrive handbook for details of visiting speakers.

Education in personal relationships and sexuality cannot always be confined to a taught programme. Students learn above all from the relationships and attitudes they experience and that are modelled in their lives at school and elsewhere, whether those are planned aspects of the programme or not. They also learn through co-curricular activities. At Woldingham, all members of our community reflect and communicate the Church's understanding of the dignity of the human person, the importance of human freedom; of the common good and a proper understanding of conscience. These values are also reflected in our adherence to the Human Rights Act, 1998, in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy.

### **Teaching methods**

All teaching will be carried out in sympathy with the Christian values and the Goals and Criteria of the Sacred Heart and with sensitive regard to the relationships of the students and their parents. Every effort is made to ensure that RSE meets the needs of all students with their diverse experiences, including those with SEND.

Please refer to the subject handbooks for detailed information about classroom methods.

### **Specific issue statements and sensitive issues**

We are a Catholic school committed to Christian values. However, we recognise the importance of an approach which takes account of differing perspectives in a culturally diverse society.

### **Sexual health and HIV**

An essential part of personal development is the promotion and maintenance of sexual health. Students need accurate information about sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and of its personal and physiological consequences, including the advances made in medicine that have made such a difference to those infected with the virus, despite which, in the absence of a cure, prevention is a key element in halting its spread. While the Church offers us a vision of human sexuality within the context of faithful



## **Safeguarding and confidentiality**

Staff will respond to questions in class in an open and factual way. If students ask to confide in a member of staff, we recognise that it may not be in the student's best interests for a member of staff to promise confidentiality and students are always encouraged to discuss the matter with their parents. However, a student may not always feel able to do this and confidential advice is available from the Chaplain and the School Doctor. Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of



Content headings for the Relationships and Sex Education Programme

Topic

Year Taught

Subject



Moral issues	Years 9 – 11	Thrive, Theology
Changing relationships and extra marital sex	Years 9, 10	Thrive
Peer group pressure and how to respond to it	Year 8 - 11	Thrive
Sexually transmitted infections	Years 9	

Legal aspects	Years 9, 10, 12	Thrive
Sexual harassment	Year 9, 10, Sixth Form	Thrive

Marriage/family relationships