



**MUNTHAM HOUSE SCHOOL**

# RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX POLICY

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
Sept 22	Sept 23	Anton van der Watt	Tracey Kirk

## Overview

This policy was developed in response statutory Relationships and Sex Education guidance from DfE September 2021.

The Consultation Process Has Involved:

- Pupil focus groups/school council
- Review of RSE curriculum content with staff and pupils
- Consultation with wider school community e.g. school nurse, EDS
- Consultation with school governors

## Intent

RSE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

## Principles and Values

In addition, Muntham House believes that RSE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people
- Encourage every pupil to contribute to make our community and aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage Pupils and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and Pupils, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers.

Relationship and Sex Education in this school has three main elements:

### **Attitudes and Values**

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage;
- learning about the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

### **Personal and Social Skills**

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empower Pupils with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services;
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay;
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

## **Aims**

The aim of RSE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our RSE programme aims to prepare Pupils for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for relationship and sex issues.
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.

- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

## Organisation and Content of Relationship and Sex Education

Muntham House specifically delivers Relationship and Sex Education through its PSHE Programme, RE and Science lessons at KS2, KS3, KS4 and KS5.

Much of the Relationship and Sex Education at Muntham House takes place within PSHE lessons. RSE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

The PSHE Programme and Science National Curriculum is taught in every year.

Any RSE lesson may consider questions or issues that some Pupils will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When Pupils ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the Pupils, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

Assessment is carried out at the end of every module and involves teacher, pupil and peer assessment of knowledge and understanding, interpersonal skills, and attitudes.

## Inclusion

### *Ethnic and Cultural Groups*

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some young people it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns.

### *Pupils with Special Needs*

We will ensure that all young people receive relationship and sex education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our Pupils, taking specialist advice where necessary.

### *Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation*

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of gender identity and sexual orientation, answer appropriate question and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality, need to feel that relationship and sex education is relevant to them.

## Right of Withdrawal of Pupils from Relationship and Sex Education

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the relationship and sex education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any RSE resources the school uses.

## Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Teachers are not legally bound to inform parents or headteacher of any disclosure unless the headteacher has specifically requested them to do so.

In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16-year-old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carers and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- child protection issues will be considered and referred if necessary to the teacher responsible for Child Protection under the school's procedures.
- the young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in a one-to-one situation with an individual pupil, but in a classroom situation they must follow the school's confidentiality policy.

## Monitoring and Evaluation of Relationship and Sex Education

It is the responsibility of the PSHE Co-ordinator to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. The PSHE programme will be treated as a subject department in this exercise, under which all departments undertake yearly self-evaluation and a twice-yearly monitoring and evaluation exercise led by the School Management Group.

The Governors Curriculum Staffing and Resources Committee is responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of Pupils. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's Relationship and Sex Education policy, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.

**Head of Education:**



**Date:**

Sept 2022

Chair of Governing Body:	J.R. Knijely	Date:	Sept 2022
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