



# RELATIONSHIP SEX EDUCATION POLICY

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## **Aims**

The aims of relationship and sex education (RSE) at Orion 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

Orion believes that relationship and sex education (RSE) makes an essential contribution to every pupil's health, wellbeing and preparation for adult life in society. Effective relationship and sex education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. It is an integral part of the PSHE programme within Orion and will support pupils to be ready for adult life.

## **Definition**

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

## **Curriculum**

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff considering the needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of our curriculum, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner, so pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

## **Delivery of RSE**

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 (RE). Students also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by trained professionals.

RSE sessions will reflect the age and maturity of the pupils and meet the particular needs of both boys and girls. Pupils across year groups will be supported with developing the following skills:

## Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations.
- learning the value of family life and stable loving relationships for 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.

## Personal and Social Skills

Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.

- developing self-respect and empathy for others.
- learning to make choices based on understanding of differences and with an absence of prejudice.
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- managing conflict.
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

## 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 health advice, contraception and support services (including education about HIV and AIDS - and other sexually transmitted diseases).
- supporting pupils to make wise and informed choices regarding sexual activity.
- developing an awareness of sex and the law.
- developing an understanding of the diversity of relationships and sexuality.
- an understanding of the difference between consenting and exploitative relationships.
- understanding internet safety issues such as sexting and sharing of images.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Head of School is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory/non-science components of RSE.

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Head of School.

## **Parents' Right to Withdraw**

Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are included in the curriculum for science.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Head of School. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Head of School will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupil's who are withdrawn from RSE.