



# Newfield School

## Sex and Relationship Education Policy

<b>Date ratified:</b>	5 July 2021
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<b>Governors/Committee Meeting:</b>	
<b>Signature of Chair:</b>	
<b>Date for review:</b>	

# Sex and Relationship Education Policy 2021

## Introduction

Sex and relationship education (SRE) is compulsory for all secondary schools. It builds upon SRE that is taught at primary school (where it is compulsory to teach relationship education, and recommended to teach sex education beyond the existing national curriculum for Science). At secondary school, this involves teaching children about reproduction, sexuality and sexual health. It doesn't promote early sexual activity or any particular sexual orientation, nor does it discriminate against any sexual orientation. This policy follows the guidance set out by the Department for Education – Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, as shown below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

## What is Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)?

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, emotional, moral, spiritual, sexual and cultural development. It is about the understanding of the importance of caring, stable and loving relationships, respect and care for family life. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

## Principles and Values

### Aims

The aims of SRE are to provide balanced, factual information about human reproduction together with careful consideration of the broader emotional, physical, sexual, moral and ethical dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for adult life in which they can:

- Make informed and personal decisions about their present and future lifestyles
- Have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others while respecting individual choices
- Impart accurate knowledge and information
- Understand their own sexual development and view it as a positive aspect of their whole development
- Develop the range of personal skills needed for relationships. For example
  - negotiation, decision making, listening and assertiveness skills
- Be respected and able to encourage respect for others
- Understand the responsibility and importance of building up trusting relationships
- Understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity
- Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and platonic relationships
- Avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex
- Communicate effectively by using appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues
- Challenge discriminatory behaviour related to homophobia, sexual identity, gender identity, sexism and prejudice in order to promote equality, diversity and inclusion
- Develop a critical awareness of messages about gender, appearance and sexuality within the media and elsewhere
- Understand the significance and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV
- Be aware of information sources and develop the skills and confidence to access confidential health services, advice, support and treatment if necessary
- Understand how the law applies to sexual relationships
- Understand the term consent and be able to articulate their consent and understand consent from others in a variety of situations.
- Understand how consent applies to the law.
- Know the protected characteristics and understand the law in relation to these

## **Organisation, content and delivery of SRE in the School**

Newfield School delivers SRE through its discreet Personal Development (Personal, Social and Health Education) Programme from Y7 to Y11, Science and Ethics lessons at KS3 and KS4.

Most of the SRE at Newfield School is delivered via timetabled Personal Development lessons that are planned and delivered by the Head of Personal Development and Form Tutors.

The biological facts of human sexual reproduction are part of the National Curriculum and are taught in Science. Wider aspects of SRE are taught in ethics as well as the dedicated personal development lessons which looks at relationships more generally and includes topics such as bullying, peer group pressure, marriage, relations between parents and children and equal opportunities.

SRE is monitored and evaluated regularly through student, teacher, governor and external agency assessment, feedback and evaluation, both written and verbal. Lessons are also quality assured via the schoolwide quality assurance procedures.

### **Right of withdrawal of students from SRE**

Parents and guardians have the right to withdraw their child from all or parts of the SRE programme except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. Science lessons). Whilst the School is aware of the right to withdraw a child, we aim to deliver SRE in a way that is welcomed and appreciated by all parents and guardians so there should be no reason for withdrawing children.

We aim to keep parents and guardians fully informed about the content and organisation of the SRE teaching in the school. It has been our practice to have information evenings on aspects of the curriculum, including sex education. We will share the resources and hold parental information evenings with parents/guardians in the half term prior to delivery of the dedicated personal development lessons. This event will be advertised on both the website and via edulink prior to the PD half term relating to SRE and will appear in the school calendar. Parents/guardians can also see, at any time, the details of planned schemes of work via the website, look at the materials to be used in lessons and discuss the course content with staff. We hope that parents will resolve any concerns by discussion with the Head of Personal Development.

## **Confidentiality sensitive issues**

With reference to safeguarding young people, members of staff at Newfield School cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Staff are happy to make resources available to parents to use if they are available or to signpost parents to external support agencies.

Information and guidance is available on the school's website including:

- Safeguarding policies
- How parents can access guidance to support their child with online safety

## **Dealing with difficult questions**

Staff training will include sessions on how to deal with difficult questions. There may still be times when staff are faced with a difficult question in class that they feel uncomfortable or ill equipped to answer. In this case, they may wish to put the question to one side and seek advice from the Head of Personal Development. Ground rules in class are essential when discussing sensitive subject matter and are discussed regularly in lessons, particularly at the beginning of Year 7.

## **Monitoring and evaluation of the SRE Policy**

It is the responsibility of the Head of Personal Development to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of the SRE Policy in the School. This will be done in consultation with the Curriculum Leaders for Science and Ethics.

This policy will be monitored and evaluated annually. Any suggested amendments will be taken into account and adopted where appropriate.

OFSTED is required to evaluate and report on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This includes evaluating and commenting upon Newfield School's SRE Policy, in addition to commenting upon support, staff development, training and delivery.

Date of ratification of policy  
5 July 2021

Date for renewal