



Mayfield School

# Sex and Relationships Policy

Believe. Achieve. Succeed.

Respectful, Resourceful, Responsible, Reflective, Resilient, Ready

## Our School Vision

Our vision is to create a family ethos that raises aspirations and makes a real difference to the life chances of our young people

## Our mission

All stakeholders, together, will create an environment of respect and inclusion where all young people are valued, supported, inspired and future ready.

Approved by:	Local Governing board
Last reviewed on:	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Next review due by:	June 2025

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### 1. Aims of the policy

This policy aims to:

- › Set out our approach to teaching relationships and sex education in both the primary and senior sections;
- › Explain how we will ensure that we are inclusive of all, in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010;
- › Outline the content of sex and relationships education in both the primary and senior sections;
- › Recognise and outline the right of withdrawal from elements of sex and relationships education;
- › Highlight the importance of safeguarding students through sex and relationships education.

### 2. Our school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- › Aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support.
- › Aim to ensure that sex and relationships education is relevant to all young people, whatever their developing sexuality.
- › Ensure that our activities are inclusive of all pupils, irrespective of SEND needs, race, nationality, pregnancy, sex, gender identity, maternity, religion or sexual orientation.
- › Consider parental requests and concerns with regards to whether certain topics are considered culturally appropriate for student to be taught in mixed groups.
- › Ensure that all young people receive sex and relationships education, offering provision appropriate to the needs of pupils.

### 3. Guidance and Statutory Requirements

This policy has been developed to reflect the Department for Education's Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education curriculum, which became mandatory from September 2020. Implementation of the policy took place from Autumn 2019 and is reviewed regularly to ensure that it is both compliant with the guidance and meeting the needs of the learners at Mayfield. The policy will be reviewed again in Spring 2026, and then every two years thereafter by members of the leadership team, PSHE Subject Leaders (both in the Primary and Senior sections), Governing Body and Staff.

This policy will be given to all members of the governing body and will be available to all teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as parents/carers and the wider community through the school's website. We welcome and invite any parent or pupil input with regards to the policy and this will be taken into consideration throughout the policy's review and development process.

Our students follow a relationships and sex education curriculum that continues through all year groups and suitably reflects their experiences and maturity related to their key stage. Parents will be notified by ClassCharts and/or letter before sex education is taught to their child(ren) and are welcome to review the content and resources used on request.

### 4. Defining Sex and Relationships Education

**Primary:** Within primary, relationships education is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children. In the early primary school (foundation stage through to year 3) they focus on friendship, bullying and the building of self-esteem. The children will then move on to learning about puberty and how a baby is born, with each concept being tailored to each year group. We understand the importance of all children knowing about puberty before they experience the onset of physical changes. To meet the objectives of relationships education we have a graduated, age-appropriate programme called Jigsaw. We have introduced sex education to the year 6 PSHE programme, in line with the Department for Education guidance, and will consult parents on this before its delivery.

**Secondary:** SRE 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. Students will be taught about different relationship dynamics, including the LGBT+ community, and how to identify and maintain healthy relationships.

### 5. Our Values

Mayfield school believes that SRE should:

- › Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continuing into adult life.
- › Be an entitlement for all young people.
- › Encourage every pupil to contribute to our community and aim to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- › Be set within this wider school context and support family commitment, love, respect, 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 to share and respect each other's views. Pupils should be aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love and respect.
- › Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on relationships and sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- › Recognise that parents are key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to share information on topics taught and resources used appropriately, where requested.

- › 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 as required.
- › Empower students with age-appropriate skills and knowledge, to enable them to make responsible choices about their health, well-being, relationships and sexual health.

Pupils will be taught sex and relationships education through learning about attitudes and values, and about personal and social skills.

Whilst learning attitudes and values linked to SRE, pupils will learn the importance of individual conscience and moral choice whilst making decisions in relationships. Pupils will learn the value of family life, alongside stable and loving relationships and, where relevant, marriage, including learning about the nurture of children and the values of respect, love and care. Pupils will learn attitudes and values with regards to exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas, developing critical thinking and decision-making skills and challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about what should be considered 'normal' behaviour. Pupils will also recognise the role of the media and social media/social networking in offering perspectives on love, relationships, and, at senior school level, sex.

Whilst learning personal and social skills linked to SRE, pupils will learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively, considering both their emotions and those of others. Pupils will also develop self-respect, empathy for others, and an appreciation of the consequences of choices made. Pupils will learn to make choices with an absence of prejudice, manage conflict and be empowered with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances, recognising traits associated with exploiters and those who are being exploited. Pupils will develop a healthy respect for the risks of social media, and an understanding of how exploitation can happen via the internet.

## 6. The Curriculum

### Primary curriculum

At Primary level, sex and relationships education is mainly explored through relationships so is often referred to as RSE as opposed to SRE at senior level. The Primary RSE programme is age-appropriate, building knowledge and life skills over time in a way that prepares pupils for issues they will soon face including different types of relationships, such as friendships, family relationships, different types of families and dealing with strangers; how to recognise, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for others, commitment, tolerance and boundaries. It also equips pupils with the skills and knowledge to manage conflict and recognise unhealthy relationships, as well as how relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health. Pupils will also learn how to maintain healthy and safe relationships online and will learn about puberty and changing bodies.

The teaching of Relationships Education has been compulsory since September 2020. Currently our Relationships Education is delivered through the Jigsaw programme. Jigsaw is an innovative whole-school scheme of work that covers all the statutory requirements for relationships and health education. It is designed to ensure pupils are taught the knowledge and life skills they will need to stay safe and develop healthy and supportive relationships as they grow up both in the physical and online worlds. Relationships Education is also developed through our assembly programme, our reward systems and other curriculum areas such as Science, Computing, English and Religious Education.

### Senior curriculum

The aim of Senior SRE 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 SRE programme is primarily delivered through PSHE lessons in key stage 3, and Citizenship lessons in key stage 4. Where appropriate, some relationships topics will also be delivered through the tutor programme. Additionally, some of our personal development (PD) days, which take place each half term, will have a relationships focus for some year groups.

Our 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. Students will also learn to:

- › Develop an understanding of how to discuss issues and resolve conflict within a relationship.
- › Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual relationships.
- › Recognise unhealthy relationships and know how to get help, where appropriate.
- › Understand human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions, and relationships.
- › Understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity, including making links to spiritual and religious choices that individuals make when considering sex and contraception.
- › 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.
- › Understand the reasons for having protected sex, as well as recognise steps that can be taken to avoid unplanned pregnancy.
- › Recognise and avoid all forms of exploitation or exploiting others including being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- › Communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationships issues.
- › Develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice and promote equality and diversity.
- › 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.

Mayfield School specifically delivers Sex and Relationship Education through its PSHE Programme, RE and Science lessons at KS3 (years 7 to 9), through Citizenship for years 10 and 11, and through PD Days.

Within the senior school much of the Sex and Relationship Education at Mayfield takes place within PSHE and Citizenship lessons. The PSHE and Citizenship Curriculums are delivered by a range of teachers from across the school. SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE and Curriculums 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. Relationships aspects of SRE are also embedded within our tutor programme, which is delivered by tutors. This programme is delivered to vertical tutor groups and encourages kindness, acceptance and respect. The PSHE Programme and Science National Curriculum are taught in every year.

External visitors may be called upon to help deliver or offer guidance on some aspects SRE, particularly within PD Days. This will always be to complement the existing PSHE programme and not to replace teacher led lessons.

Whilst SRE forms a part of many aspects of PSHE, there are some topics in which SRE is taught more explicitly than others. Below is an outline of topics in which SRE is most explicitly taught:

Year 7:

'Working with Others' unit - Students will learn about what it means to be a good citizen and the importance of working with those around us, as well as that they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in return they should show due respect to others.

'Relationships' unit – Students will consider the characteristics of positive and healthy friendships, including online friendships. Students will also learn about steps they can take to improve or support respectful relationships in a range of contexts.

'Growing up' unit – Students will learn about the changes that take place in puberty and why these changes happen. Students will also learn about the menstrual cycle and how this can affect people.

Year 8:

'Relationships and staying safe' unit – students will learn about different types of bullying, the impact of bullying and the responsibilities of bystanders to report it and get help. This will strengthen students' understanding of what healthy relationships are. Students will also consider the difference between relationships built online and those built in the physical world, as well as what the laws are in relation to sharing images of an indecent nature.

Year 9:

'Sex and Relationships' unit – Students will learn about different types of long-term relationships, including those which include marriage and the status of those who choose not to marry. Students will consider how to communicate and recognise consent in a range of contexts, including sexual consent and the legal age of consent, and how consent can be withdrawn. They will also consider the characteristics of positive and healthy relationships, including intimate relationships, built on mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests, sex and friendship. Building on this, they will learn that they have the choice to delay sex or enjoy intimacy without sex; the facts and full range of contraceptive choices available and where they are able to access these; facts around pregnancy and miscarriage; choices with regards to pregnancy (such as keeping the baby, adoption or abortion); how STIs are transmitted and how the risk of these can be reduced; and where they are able to get further advice with regards to sex and relationships.

Year 10:

Students will have a PD Day with a healthy relationships theme. They will also study a 'medical ethics' unit within their Citizenship sessions, in which they consider different ethical views on some of the topics that they cover in year 9, such as abortion. They also consider the ethical views surrounding fertility treatments and what treatments are available.

Year 11:

'Relationships' unit – Students will consider what healthy relationships look like; that some behaviours within relationships are criminal, including violent and coercive behaviour. Students will also consider what sexual harassment and sexual violence are and why these are always unacceptable. Students will also learn that sexually explicit material such as pornography gives a distorted image of sexual behaviours, which can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners. They will also learn about sexting and the laws surrounding this, with a focus on the law that sharing and viewing indecent images of children is a criminal offence with serious penalties. Students will consider the concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can have lasting impacts on peoples' relationships.

All of the objectives outlined in the SRE units above are based on and taken from the DfE guidance for RSHE, which we have been required by law to be taught to students since September 2020.

Any SRE 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. Parents may also be informed if the teacher feels it would be inappropriate to answer a pupil's question, for example, because of its mature or explicit nature.

The PSHE team has developed lessons to include some more recent issues linked to social media, body image, FGM and contraception choices. In individual cases when extra support is required, pupils are referred to the designated safeguarding lead and they will refer pupils to outside agencies for targeted intervention.

## 7. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the subject leaders for PSHE for both primary and secondary. This will be done in consultation with parents and be reviewed by governors and a member of the senior leadership team.

Planning and teaching of PSHE will be monitored and evaluated by the Primary PSHE co-ordinator in the primary section, and the PSHE Subject Leader in the senior section. This will include regular scrutiny of curriculum planning and evaluation of lesson delivery, including through drop ins and staff and student voice. PSHE will be treated in the same way as other subject departments, under which all departments undertake a half termly quality assurance process, as planned by the Subject Leader. The PSHE leaders in the primary and senior section will work together to ensure a smooth transition of PSHE teaching between KS2 and KS3.

## 8. Right of Withdrawal of Pupils from Sex Education

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. Parents have the right to request that their child(ren) be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of the statutory SRE, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions or concerns with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources that the school uses.

Parents cannot withdraw their child from the sex education delivered as part of the Science Curriculum. There is also no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education at any key stage.

## 9. Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. In a case where a teacher learns from a school aged child that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- the young person will be advised, if appropriate, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- child protection issues will be considered and referred to the designated safeguarding lead 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.

## 10. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality information and objectives statement

- Anti-bullying policy
- SEND policy.