

HAMPTON GARDENS: RELATIONSHIPS HEALTH and SEX EDUCATION POLICY

1. Relationship Health and Sex Educations (RHSE)

RHSE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development, irrespective of gender, ethnicity or ability. It involves acquiring knowledge and information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes, as well as the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, of respect, of love and care, within all types of families. RHSE should enable students to make informed and appropriate choices as they become young adults and to develop responsible attitudes to sexual activity and the development of their own relationships.

The aims of RHSE are to:

- provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place;
- prepare students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene;
- help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy;
- create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships;
- teach students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies;
- enable students to stay safe, prepared for life in modern Britain and able to make a positive contribution to their community.

2. Statutory Requirements

As an academy school, we must provide RHSE to all students as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

At Hampton Gardens, RHSE is delivered primarily through Personal Development (PD) lessons but key topics will also feature in assemblies, form discussions and in other curriculum subjects. The PD curriculum has been determined using statutory guidance and the PSHE Association programme of study. Sex education is also part of the science curriculum.

In teaching RHSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

3. Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, students and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review - The Head of PD and SLT line managers pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation - all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. *Parent/stakeholder consultation - parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. *Student consultation - we investigated what exactly students want from their RHSE through year group consultation groups

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5. Ratification - once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

*Due to the pandemic these steps were put on hold. They will be completed during the summer term 2021 and any amendments will be made to the policy following these consultations.

4. Definition

RHSE is delivered at Hampton Gardens and provides the statutory relationships and sex education.

RHSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of students, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RHSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values. RHSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out in Appendix 1, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, students and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of students. If students ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

6. Delivery of RHSE

Relationships Education and RHSE-related topics within the curriculum are age-appropriate and have due consideration for the needs of all students, including those with special educational needs.

The formal RHSE programme is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RHSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE) and within the computing curriculum. Relationships are also often studied, in depth, through the books students read in English. The underlying ethos of the school is also key in terms of embedding key messages relating to the way in which we treat each other.

The delivery of RHSE is complemented in delivery through parents, families, health professionals, youth workers, peer educators, the police and the wider community. Students may receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained external professionals.

The Head of PD will work closely with colleagues delivering RHSE sessions and ensure all staff have appropriate training, guidance and support. RHSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

➤ Families

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- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

For more information about our RHSE curriculum, see Appendix 1.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The local governing body

The governing board will approve the RHSE policy, and hold the Head of School to account for its implementation.

7.2 The Head of School

The Head of School is responsible for ensuring that RHSE is taught consistently across each phase, and for managing requests to withdraw students from components of RHSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

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

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

7.4 Students

Students are expected to engage fully in RHSE and, when discussing issues related to RHSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Where parents have concerns about RHSE at Hampton Gardens, we encourage them to contact the Head of PD or SLT line manager, to discuss what they are worried about. We are very happy to talk through the content and context of any lesson and hope that we can allay concerns.

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Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science components of sex education within RHSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy 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 pupils who are withdrawn from sex education and they will be appropriately supervised during these lessons.

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RHSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Head of School will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nuRHSEs or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RHSE.

10. Monitoring Arrangements

The statutory provision and delivery of RHSE is monitored by the Hampton Gardens Local Governing Body.

Deep dives and other internal monitoring arrangements, such as scrutiny of curriculum plans, learning walks, lesson observations, work scrutinies and student voice will feed into this monitoring process. Students' development in RHSE is monitored as part of our internal assessment systems.

APPROVED BY GOVERNORS:

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SIGNATURE

NAME

DATE