

Hedingham School and Sixth Form

Relationships and Sex Education

Definition, Values and Aims

'Sex and Relationship Education (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. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.'

(DfE 2020)

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Hedingham School is one element of our student Personal Development programme, the purpose of which is to equip students with the knowledge they need enable them to live safe, fulfilled and healthy lives.

The Relationships and Sex Education Policy (RSE) is based upon our behaviour ethos of Ready, Respect, Safe.

An outline of what is being taught to the students in Personal Development (PD) time, focus mornings and the relating policies is identified in the following documents listed below:

- Personal Development Programme 2022-2023
- Relationships and Sex Education Programme 2022-2023
- Personal Development Policy – December 2021
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy – December 2021

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Relationships 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 relationships and sex education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (ie in Science lessons) or in subjects where apparently unrelated topics lead to a discussion on aspects of sexual behaviour. The parental right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory component of sex education within RSE extends up to and until three 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 After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the student's educational record. The Assistant Headteacher for Student Welfare will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

The request to withdraw must be made in writing on the following document: Withdrawal from Sex Education within Relationships and Sex Education form, which can be found on our website. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any RSE resources the school uses. Parents are informed of this process on entry to school.

Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Should issues of a sensitive nature arise, the school, whilst providing maximum support for the students, will aim to involve parents *and/or* any relevant support agency.

The school will provide opportunities for students to speak to the school nurse, who while respecting the confidence of the students, will encourage them to work with their parents in addressing any issues of a personal or sensitive nature.

The school's response to confidentiality is in the first instance to maintain the safety of the student. (Refer to Hedingham School's Child Protection Policy)

Parental Feedback

If you would like more information or to give feedback on any aspect of our Personal Development and Relationships and Sex Education Programme, please contact Mr D Nash, Assistant Headteacher.