

Purbrook Park School

'Enjoy, Enrich, Excel'



## **Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy**

**Co-ordinators:** Luke Atiyah

**Start date:** September 2024

**Review date:** September 2025

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## **Rationale:**

In September 2020, the Department of Education made it compulsory for all secondary schools to provide pupils with a Relationships and Sex education, as well as made it compulsory that all secondary schools teach Health Education. In addition to this, it is our duty as a school to guide pupils in an increasingly complex world, and ensure they are well educated and prepared in relation to the topics of relationships, sex and health.

It is a statutory requirement that the Governing Body will have a written copy of the Relationships, Sex and Health Policy drawn up, in consultation with the Headteacher, and it shall be readily available to parents.

Pupils have a right to expect a broad and balanced curriculum that includes a good relationship and sex education.

## **Purposes:**

The Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy at Purbrook Park School will be:

1. A result of discussion and negotiation between governors, parents and pupils with due regard to statutory requirements and with advice from appropriate external agencies
2. In line with the Department of Education's new guidance on teaching Relationships, Sex and Health Education (2020)
3. A reflection of the school Vision and Aims
4. A clarification of the provision of Relationships, Sex and Health education to all pupils
5. Based on identification of good practice and dissemination of policies that support good practice
6. Monitored, evaluated and supported by the Director of Inclusion, Senior Leadership Team, and Lead Teachers
7. Reviewed by the Director of Inclusion, in consultation with the Headteacher, every year

## **Guidelines and Expectations:**

The Relationships, Sex and Health Education at Purbrook Park School will be organised so that:

1. The curriculum is delivered primarily through the school's RSE days. Aspects of the curriculum will also be delivered through the Personal Development curriculum during PDL and during PSHE lessons.
2. Learning is appropriate to, and adapted as necessary for, the needs of the pupil, taking account of age, ability, learning need, gender, sexuality and cultural background, is within a context of life-long learning about sex, sexual health, sexuality, loving and caring relationships and the responsibilities of parenthood. This involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.
3. Pupils are aware of the law, the risks and ways to protect themselves with regards to a number of issues including, but not limited to: sex, marriage, consent, pornography, abortion, gender identity, substance abuse, online behaviours.

4. All pupils, at a timely point in their school development, will be taught LGBT content. This content will be integrated into programmes of study.
5. Pupils understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting peer-group or partner pressure.
6. Pupils are taught awareness and tolerance of other beliefs, religions and sexualities on the topics of relationships, sex and health.
7. Parents and pupils will have a say in the design of the curriculum through questionnaires and feedback. These questionnaires will be given to a sample of parents and pupils, and will be anonymous.

### **Procedures and Responsibilities:**

1. Governors, in consultation with the Governing Body, are responsible for ensuring that a written copy of the policy is readily available to parents.
2. The Headteacher, and all staff, must ensure that pupils are protected from inappropriate teaching materials, having regard to the age and cultural upbringing of those pupils.
3. Where appropriate, the school may utilise external agencies to assist in the delivery of the curriculum.
4. Staff delivering the curriculum feel prepared and supported, as well as knowledgeable of the content they are being asked to convey.
5. Teachers and all school staff have a responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of our pupils and because we act *in loco parentis*, we may need to reassure parents that our personal beliefs and attitudes will not influence the teaching of Relationship and Sex Education within the Personal and Social Studies programme.
6. All staff must adhere to the school policy on confidentiality between themselves and pupils, especially when they believe that a pupil has embarked on a course of action that would place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law. Staff cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality.
7. It operates within a safe learning environment in which open and non-judgemental discussions about sex, sexuality and sexual health can be held.
8. The school will follow the Fraser Guidelines (1985) concerning the school acting without parental knowledge.
9. If there is evidence of abuse, the school's policy on safeguarding must be adhered to (see the Safeguarding policy), ensuring that pupils are aware of sources of confidential support such as the support provided by the school's Health and Wellbeing Manager.

10. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or part of Sex and Relationship Education provided but *not* from the teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under the National Curriculum for Science.
11. If a parent/carer wishes to withdraw their child from Sex, Relationship and Health Education, they must do so in liaison with the school.

**Chair of Governors:**

**Date:**

**Headteacher:**

**Date:**

**This policy is due to be reviewed annually.**