

HEALING  
SCHOOL



A Science Academy

# Healing School – A Science Academy

## Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy

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## **Rationale and ethos**

This policy covers our school's approach to teaching relationships.

Sex and Relationship Education [SRE] is defined as 'Lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage and/or partnerships for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.'

In line with the School Mission Statement, we aim to prepare pupils for adult life. To that end we believe that sex education should provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the process of human reproduction. It should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare pupils to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and to develop the necessary skills to allow them to fulfil those relationships. Within this framework, and with an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour, facts will be presented in a balanced, objective and sensitive manner. Whilst we understand there is concern that SRE will encourage sexual experimentation, evidence shows that pupils who receive comprehensive SRE at school are more likely to delay their first sexual activity and to use contraception.

At secondary level we are building on the foundations of skills and knowledge that pupils have learnt at primary school. It has three main elements:

Attitudes and values:

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
- learning the value of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- learning the value of respect, love and care
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision making.

Personal and social skills:

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- managing conflict
- learning how to avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and understanding:

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay
- Avoidance of unplanned pregnancy
- The law surrounding sexual activities, online safety and 'sexting'

This policy was produced by Miss Henshall through consultation with other staff members, PSHE association, L.E.A.D, North East Lincolnshire Council and our Governors.

### **Roles and responsibility**

The SRE programme will be led by the Head of PSHCE, Miss Henshall who will co-ordinate the teachers, tutors and learning co-ordinators who will deliver the programme through dedicated lessons, assemblies and the tutor time programme. Teaching staff will have opportunities to receive training on SRE in order to support their teaching. This teaching will be supported by relevant and suitable agencies as required, including the school nurse. Information regarding the engagement of outside organisations will be shared as required.

Teaching staff are not in a position to promise confidentiality to any pupil who discloses information regarding any safeguarding concerns. Please see the school's safeguarding policy for more information.

Healing School believes that effective teaching of SRE should be achieved with a strong partnership between home and school and therefore will maintain communication with parents and carers. Parents and carers will have access to the SRE policy and further information will be shared on the school's website. Parents do have a right to withdraw their child(ren) from all or part of the sex education aspects of the planned programme (other than that which comes within the science curriculum. There is no right to withdraw from Relationship Education or Health Education. The program Healing School provides is designed to meet the needs of all pupils and to give them the knowledge and skills they require to live healthy lives. The lessons we teach will prevent them from receiving their information from less accurate sources. For more information, please see the section on right of withdrawal below.

Healing School wishes to build a positive and supporting relationship with parents and carers through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective, Healing School will:

- Inform parents about the policy and practice through prospectus/letters/emails/website

- Share and explain the curriculum content through letters/emails/website/conversations
- Answer any questions that parents/carers may have about the SRE education and delivery
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for SRE
- Conduct consultations about the needs in relation to our SRE programme and policy

Any parent wanting more information about the SRE curriculum should contact Miss Henshall or Mrs Gunn, Vice Principal via the school office.

### **Legislation (statutory regulations and guidance)**

We are required to teach relationships education/SRE as part of the PSHCE curriculum and this informs our curriculum. More details can be found in the curriculum design section. Our provisions were designed using the following governmental policies and guidance:

- Education Act (1996)
- Learning and Skills Act (2000)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010),
- Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory safeguarding guidance (2020)
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)
- Relationships Education and Sex Education (SRE) and Health Education (2019)

### **Curriculum design**

Our SRE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHCE education provision. This programme will be delivered through Personal, Social and Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE) lessons in KS3 and KS4, supported by the National Curriculum Orders in Science, which means that some aspects of Sex and Relationship Education will be taught as part of the Science Curriculum from Year 7. However, Sex Education is not taught as a separate topic isolated from other subjects but is allowed to develop naturally out of pupils' work in many subjects.

Within PSHCE lessons, SRE will be taught through a range of teaching methods and interactive activities, including group discussions, videos, personal reflection activities and question boxes. Our teachers will use high quality resources which will support our SRE provision and which will be regularly reviewed to ensure they are relevant. Pupils will be encouraged to reflect on their own learning and progress by going back over work and adding to or correcting mistakes.

The curriculum delivered is age-appropriate and tolerant, building on pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills each year. The PSHCE programme for Year 7-9 lessons will be based upon a thematic approach as suggested by the PSHE Association. An outline can be found below:

**Year 7:**

- Health & Wellbeing –
  - Transition to secondary school
  - Personal safety and awareness
  - Personal health including diet, exercise and sleep
  - Puberty
- Living in the Wider World
  - Careers
  - Employability skills
  - Enterprise
  - Law and Order
- Relationships
  - Diversity & Discriminations (including all forms of prejudice)
  - Self-worth
  - Healthy & unhealthy relationships
  - Relationship changes including friendships

**Year 8:**

- Health & Wellbeing –
  - Drugs, smoking and alcohol
  - Gangs
  - Mental and emotional health
  - Personal health including diet and exercise
- Living in the Wider World
  - Online presence and safety
  - Employability skills
  - Changing workforce
  - Household budgeting
- Relationships
  - Consent
  - Contraception and pregnancy
  - STI's
  - Romantic relationships including marriage
  - Impacts of the media including myths from porn
  - Different families
  - Parenting

**Year 9:**

- Health & Wellbeing –
  - Mental and emotional health including stress management
  - First aid
- Living in the Wider World
  - Democracy
  - Financial decision making
- Relationships
  - Communities and belonging

- Challenging extremism
- Intimate relationships – personal values, communication and the law
- Relationship challenges
- Abuse

SRE will be firmly embedded within our broader curriculum areas, including Science, Food, IT and PE., in addition to more focused learning through sessions in our pastoral provisions. The tutor programme will also address key areas with pupils such as mental and emotional health. IT safety and health prevention will be supported by subject teachers as relevant to their curriculums. Finally, there may also be opportunities for outside agencies such as Safer Roads Humber to speak to pupils in assemblies.

Although contraception will be part of the Sex and Relationship Education programme and discussed in class or group forum, no personalised “advice” will be given to individuals in Years 7 – 11 without the express permission of parents/carers by teachers. Teachers will be presenting pupils with factual information and signposting to sources of local support.

### **Equal Opportunities and Vulnerable Pupils**

Sex and Relationship Education will be delivered within the framework of the School’s Equal Opportunities Policy and the 2010 Equalities Act. We will ensure SRE is inclusive and meets the needs of all our pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) by differentiating resources appropriately and working with the school’s SENDCO. Mrs Hall.

Some pupils may have experienced adverse childhood experiences that may impact on their ability to engage with SRE in a variety of ways. Care will be taken to ensure that, where this is the case, parents/carers are consulted about the most appropriate way for the pupil to access the curriculum.

### **Safe and Effective Practice**

We will ensure a safe learning environment whereby teachers and pupils will agree ground rules for discussions and ensuring any discussions use imaginary people unless there are relevant examples in the media. In these cases, the teacher may use their professional judgement in order to support pupils’ learning. Pupils will have the opportunity to raise questions anonymously from the rest of the class by using a question box. Pupils will also be sign posted to support both internally and through National organisations such as NSPCC and Childline.

### **Child sexual abuse procedures**

All Child Protection issues are dealt with as described in the School Child Protection policy and are in keeping with the LA guidelines.

## **Engaging Stakeholders**

We work closely with parents to ensure that they are fully aware of what is being taught and provide additional resources and support through our website. Parental consultations will take place at appropriate times via surveys or meetings. Governors will be informed of the SRE policy and curriculum through meetings and plans which will be communicated with them in a timely manner. Our pupils will also be involved in order to ensure we are meeting their needs. Pupil voice will be used to review and tailor our SRE programme to match the different needs of pupils.

Where it is considered appropriate, advice and input into the programme will be sought from relevant and suitable agencies. (See details within the Section “External Speakers”).

## **External speakers**

External speakers may be used to enhance the delivery of SRE. All external speakers deliver in line with our SRE policy and safeguarding procedures. All external speakers will:

- be suitably qualified to deliver SRE sessions
- be aware of the school policy on SRE and work within this
- be supervised by a member of staff at all times when on school premises
- alert the teacher to any safeguarding concerns
- understand the contribution they make to the broader SRE programme
- be suitably vetted prior to being booked

Examples of external speakers include Young Minds Matter, NELC Public Health and the School Nurse.

## **Monitoring, reporting and evaluation**

The subject teachers’ delivery of PSHCE is monitored as part of the School’s policy on monitoring the quality of teaching in the classroom. Teachers are encouraged to help pupils reflect on their learning through discussion at appropriate points during the delivery of SRE. This helps them identify areas where pupils may need to address issues in more depth or require additional information. At the end of each specific topic, pupils are encouraged to reflect on the issues and provide feedback to staff. Any relevant points raised are considered for appropriate action by the staff with overall responsibility for SRE. Pupils are signposted to support services as necessary.

Teachers will critically reflect on their work in delivering SRE through self-evaluation, discussions with the Head of PSHCE, lesson drop ins, work book

scrutinies. At the end of each academic year the programme will be reviewed by the Head of PSHCE with results reported to the Vice Principal (Pastoral).

Pupils will have opportunities to review and reflect on their learning during lessons with our DIRT (Directed Improvement Reflection Time) and question boxes. The feedback from the pupils will be influential in adapting and amending planned learning activities for the future.

### **Complaints Procedures and The Right of Withdrawal**

Complaints about any aspect of SRE should be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure which is available from the School.

Whilst we acknowledge that under Section 241 of the 1993 Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the Relationship education programme, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order, we affirm the importance of Sex and Relationship education within the curriculum as a whole.

Please Note: The School makes arrangements for parents to exercise their statutory right of withdrawal of their children from sex education by contacting Mrs Gunn, Vice Principal in writing. This may be followed by a meeting to clarify the request.

### **SRE Policy Review Date**

This policy will be reviewed September 2021 to ensure the provisions are continuing to meet the needs of pupils, staff and parents and that it is in line with current Department for Education advice and guidance.