

<b>Elizabeth Woodville School</b>	
Policy Name:	Relationship Sex Education Policy
Owner:	Deputy Headteacher
Statutory:	Yes
Date Ratified:	By Governing Body December 2023
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Relationship Sex education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It is intended to provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It should encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow students to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

#### **Objectives:**

- To enable students to understand the biological aspects of reproduction
- To enable students to know how to develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships.
- To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning in terms of personal preference and their social and moral implications
- To recognise and be able to discuss sensitive and controversial issues such as conception, virginity, birth, child-rearing, abortion, sexual health and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, values, beliefs and morality.
- To make students aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society and recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health and personal safety.
- To make students aware that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and that people have the right not to be sexually active.
- To understand the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact on lifestyles, e.g. the menopause
- To recognise that parenthood is a matter of choice.
- To make students aware about different sexual orientations and gender identity.
- To critically analyse moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups
- To understand the concept of stereotyping and to discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals
- To understand aspects of legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender and equal opportunities and to make aware the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships
- To recognise sexual violence and sexual harassment.
- To understand that relationships exist between same sex as well as different sex partners and to develop a tolerance and maturity of attitude towards such relationships.

## **Delivery**

Relationship Sex Education at Elizabeth Woodville School is taught through Biology and is embedded within the PSHE Curriculum. The staffing and the variety of experience contained within this teaching body is seen as a resource for the delivery of relationship sex education. The provision for relationship sex education uses terms of language, concepts and content which increase in depth and complexity as students' progress through the School. It encourages reflection and discussion from students in all year groups. Elizabeth Woodville School also consult and use outside agencies for the delivery of Relationship Sex Education for example, Brook and the PSHE Association.

Throughout the course of teaching a variety of sensitive issues will inevitably be explored. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal matter. The teaching of relationship sex education at Elizabeth Woodville School will place stress upon the need for understanding and awareness of a variety of sexual preferences across the spectrum of human sexuality.

It is intended that students will be given up-to-date information on a wide variety of contraceptive methods and whilst general statements about the efficacy of these methods will be given, specific advice and guidance to individuals will not be made without consultation with the parents.

The delivery of relationships and sex education is taught predominately in terms 2 and 4 through PSHE lessons. PSHE lessons are taught weekly for Key stage 3 and fortnightly for Key stage 4. Additional drop down days are also used to support the provision of teaching RSE to Year 9 & 10 students.

## **Relationship Sex Education in the Curriculum**

### **Introduction:**

Elizabeth Woodville School is committed to offer an education for the whole person, body, mind and spirit. The sex education programme at Elizabeth Woodville School aims to be a sensitive and responsible one which is set in a moral and social framework. It also aims to meet the statutory provision which has been outlined in various Government documents.

### **Context:**

The prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents. Schools must recognise that parents are key figures in helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The teaching offered by schools should be seen as complementary and supportive to the role of parents. In an attempt to achieve this, Elizabeth Woodville School will offer all students the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of sex education during their school careers through a curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at school and prepares such students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

It is recognised that sex education is a difficult issue which will place demands on schools and teachers. However, the purpose of sex education should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction. At the same time it should lead to the

acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare students to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

The sex education delivered should be tailored not only to the age, but also to the understanding of students. At Elizabeth Woodville School, we will aim to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. It will be set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law regarding sexual behaviour. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. Such matters will be treated with sensitivity and great care will be taken to encourage all children to feel a sense of worth. Particular care will be taken when issues such as marital breakdown and divorce are dealt with.

### **Definition of Relationship Sex Education:**

At Elizabeth Woodville School Relationship Sex Education is education about sexual matters within a values framework, focusing upon responsibility within caring, committed relationships. Among the things it will concentrate on are knowledge of the facts of human reproductive processes and behaviour, sexually transmitted diseases, contraception and abortion, and a consideration of the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes.

### **The Parental Right to Withdraw their Son or Daughter from Relationship Sex Education Lessons:**

**The new Statutory Guidance 2020 states that:** Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Before granting any such request it would be good practice for the head teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership team to discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

Should parents/carers wish to request that their child is withdrawn from lessons then they should make an appointment with a member of the Senior Leadership team to discuss this further. The school will grant requests up to, and until, three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.

The schemes of work for the Relationship Sex education are available on request and will enable parents to estimate the point at which specific aspects of sex education will be delivered to their child. The biological element of reproduction remains within the National Curriculum Science for Key Stage 3, and is covered in detail as part of the Key Stage 4 scheme of work. Other issues are dealt with within the PSHE curriculum.

### **Advice to Individual Students:**

It is understood that it is important to distinguish between the School's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and the giving of advice to individual students on these issues. Good teachers have always taken a pastoral interest in the welfare and well-being of their students. It is also understood that this function should never trespass on the proper exercise of parental rights and responsibilities. It is understood that particular care must be exercised in relation to giving contraceptive advice to students under the age of sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. It is the general rule that giving an individual student advice on such matters without parental knowledge or consent would be inappropriate.

Where the circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the student has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has the general responsibility to ensure that the student is aware of the implications and is urged to seek advice.

## **Aims**

In the attempt to enable students to acquire knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes and behaviour with regard to sex education, Elizabeth Woodville School aims to provide a worthwhile educational experience for all its students which will present opportunities:

- to help students to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity;
- to enable students to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour and to accept that both sexes should behave responsibly in sexual matters;
- to support the personal development and social skills of the students;
- to ensure that students have an understanding of their own and others' sexuality;
- to enjoy relationships based upon mutual respect and responsibility which are free from abuse and exploitation;
- to provide information and knowledge which will counteract prejudice and ignorance;
- to develop an understanding of risk and to promote strategies for personal safety;
- to enable students to be aware of the sources of help and to acquire the skills and confidence to use them.