



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The DfE states that RSE is compulsory from the age of 11 onwards, and this policy is based on the Guidance confirmed in DfE 0116/2000.

RSE is a lifelong learning process acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings (sex education forum).

Effective RSE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by students if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also helps young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

Our approach to RSE will be conducted within a clear morals and values framework based on the following principles:

- The value of stable and loving relationships
- Respect, understanding and empathy towards others who may have different backgrounds, cultures, sexuality, feelings and views.
- To enable students to understand and manage the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty and growing older.
- To help students understand how to keep themselves safe.

AIMS OF RSE

- To provide accurate information and to dispel myths about and understanding of, RSE issues
- To explore a range of attitudes towards RSE issues and to help students reach their own informed views
- To develop respect and care for others
- To increase students' self-esteem
- To develop skills relevant to effective management of relationships and sexual situations. Examples include communication with and empathy towards others, risk assessment, assertiveness, conflict management, decision making, seeking help and helping others.
- To develop an understanding of 'private and public' and develop the capacity for students to make accurate choices.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Young people may have varying needs regarding RSE depending on their level of maturity, circumstances and background. The College strongly believes that all students should have access to RSE that is relevant to their particular needs.

CONTENT

In Key Stage 3 / 4 students learn how good relationships can promote mental well-being, how to manage their feelings positively and how to manage changing relationships. They learn the law relating to sexual behaviour, how to develop skills of assertiveness in order to resist peer pressure and stereotyping, sources of advice and support and when and where to get help.

In Key Stage 4 (class based) RSE is taught as a discreet subject and within the FE Department it is taught on a modular basis.

ORGANISATION

RSE is not delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas. At Manor Green College the main content is delivered in PSHE lessons. RSE is normally delivered by teachers in mixed gender groups other than where it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups. Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced visitors from outside agencies may be invited to contribute to the delivery of RSE in the College.

SPECIFIC ISSUES WITHIN RSE

Withdrawal

Parents/Carers have a right to withdraw their children from all or part of the College's Sex and Relationships programme except for areas included in the statutory National Curriculum. Parents/Carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Teacher and/or PSHE Co-ordinator who will explore any concerns and discuss the impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RSE programme until the request for withdrawal has been withdrawn.

Disclosure of Confidential Information

- Students need to be reassured that their best interests will be maintained. However, College staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality
- If a student asks to speak in confidence he/she will always be told beforehand that unconditional confidentiality may not always be possible if someone is at risk. If confidentiality is to be breached, the student needs to know who will be told, why and what the outcome is likely to be and how he/she will be supported.
- Students can be informed of sources of confidential help
- Staff should be aware of the College's Child Protection Policy.

Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that all students are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal RSE arising from students' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the student concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly and can be addressed individually later. The College believes that individual Teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area but should refer to Senior Teachers for advice if they are concerned.

Reviewed by Tom Smith – March 2019

Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed to take into new legislation being introduced in 2020.

This Policy was formally approved and ratified by the Governing Body on: 13.3.19

Signed: John Drury
Chair of Governors