

# Relationships & Sex Education Policy

<b>Version Number</b>	3.0
<b>Date of Issue</b>	February 2020
<b>Date Approved</b>	February 2020
<b>Date for Review</b>	February 2023
<b>Approved by</b>	Head teacher and one governor
<b>SLT Member Responsible</b>	Deputy Head (PAT)

## **1. Introduction**

This is the Relationships and Sex Education policy of the Brooksbank School, Elland. It is intended that the policy will be reviewed annually by the PSHCE Coordinator together with a Deputy Head, allowing for consultation with others who have an interest and responsibility for this in the school.

## **2. Description of the school**

The Brooksbank School is an 11–19 comprehensive school. It is the only secondary school in the Elland area. At present, it draws students from primary schools within Elland and also attracts students from primary schools in other parts of Calderdale. The region it serves is primarily urban residential with mixed industry and business, and semi-rural and rural towards the outer areas.

## **3. Description of making of this policy and the consultation process**

Initial discussions in school involved the Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team, Head of Science, Head of Religious Education, PSHCE Coordinator and members of staff who teach the PSHCE programme.

From this meeting it was suggested that the following might be an appropriate procedure:

- 1) Preparation of draft policy documents within school;
- 2) Consultation with parent governor;
- 3) Consultation with teaching staff;
- 4) Revision of documents with the governors;
- 5) Acceptance and ratification by the governing body;
- 6) Written information to all parents.

## **4. Definition of relationships and sexual education**

We define relationships and sex education as learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health. It involves acquiring information and developing skills that allow students to behave in a moral, caring and responsible way.

## **5. Aims and objectives of the school Relationships and Sex Education Programme**

The aims of the Relationships and Sex Education programme are to give students the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable students to understand what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other types of committed relationships.

Students will learn what is considered acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in a relationships and will know how they can use contraception to keep themselves safe during relationships that become intimate. Effective Relationships and Sex Education does not encourage early sexual experimentation, it enables young people to mature, build their confidence and self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity until the appropriate time.

Students will be taught the facts and law about sex, sexuality, sexual health and gender identity in an age-appropriate and inclusive way. Sexual orientation and gender identity will be explored at a timely point in a clear, sensitive and respectful manner. There will be an equal opportunity to explore features of stable and healthy same-sex relationships, which is integrated throughout the taught programme rather than being addressed separately.

Internet safety will be addressed and students will be taught the rules and principles for keeping safe online. This will include how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how and whom to report issues. Students will gain a strong understanding of how personal data is captured on social media and how this could be used to exploit them.

The structured and progressive nature of the PSHCE programme matches the developing student interests and needs in terms of being age appropriate and responsive to social pressures.

### Content of Relationships and Sex education

The relationships and sex education content is covered in both PSHCE and during science lessons. An overview of the content is shown in the table below. A more detailed programme for each year group can be accessed from the PSHCE coordinator.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12 & 13
Personal health and hygiene	✓	✓				
Developing and coping with relationships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Physical development	✓	✓				
Puberty and adolescence	✓	✓				
Reproductive systems	✓	✓				
Contraception and pregnancy		✓	✓	✓		
Sexuality		✓	✓			
Sexual consent			✓	✓		
Abortion				✓		
Pornography				✓	✓	
Female genital mutilation					✓	
Sexting		✓	✓			✓
HIV/AIDS			✓	✓	✓	✓
Sexually transmitted infections			✓	✓	✓	✓
Child sexual exploitation		✓	✓			

## 6. Diversity and inclusion

The PSHCE programme fosters gender and LGBT+ equality and challenges all forms of discrimination and bullying. Lesson content is respectful to how students choose to identify themselves, understanding that their sexual orientation and gender identity may be 'emerging'.

The school aims to be sensitive to the range of religious and cultural views about sexual behaviour whilst still ensuring that students have access they need to stay safe, healthy

and understand their rights as an individual. This includes impartial scientific information on matters such as changes of puberty, abortion and assisted conception, as well as the law associated with forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Where necessary students with learning difficulties will have additional support from learning support assistants and trained staff from professional agencies. Some differentiated resources are available to support with the delivery of relationships and sex education to students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

## **7. Roles and responsibilities**

The PSHCE coordinator and Careers Leader, in consultation with a Deputy Head is responsible for the planning and evaluation of the taught programme. The programme is planned adhering to statutory guidelines produced by the Department of Education. Also, as a measure of good practice the school has an annual membership to the PSHE association.

### **b. Delivery**

All members of the teaching staff are involved in the delivery, with support from the PSHCE Coordinator and inputs from professionals working within local agencies.

### **c. Training**

The PSHCE Coordinator and Careers leader delivers half termly training with all of the teaching staff, as part of the teaching and learning programme. In addition, teaching staff take part in regular pastoral year group meetings where they can discuss elements and aspects of the programme and identify training needs. Additional activities such as awareness sessions are carried out on training days.

### **d. Approach**

There are guidelines for staff that outline approaches and the handling of controversial topics and content. Teaching methodology is discussed and reviewed with form teachers during the various training opportunities. Further suggestions are also written into the teachers' information within the lesson plans.

### **e. Classroom arrangements**

The PSHCE lesson is for all year groups and students are taught in mixed set and ability form groups. The lesson is 45minutes in length and is timetabled simultaneously for the whole school. Each form group is taught PSHCE by their form tutor.

### **f. Curriculum entitlement**

The 2019 regulations, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships and Sex Education compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education.

The Department for Education have provided Relationships and Sex Education statutory guidance issued under section 80A of the education Act 2002 and section 403of the education Act 1996.

### **g. Reviewing the effectiveness of the programme**

The programme will be reviewed annually by the, PSHE Coordinator and Careers

Leader, and responsible Deputy Head in consultation with Heads of Year and relevant year tutor groups.

#### **h. Resources**

All teaching and learning resources that the programme makes available are previewed by those with the relevant responsibility and maybe with other members of staff who have a particular experience, concern or interest. Resources for each year group are selected bearing in mind the age group, the relevance to objectives, and to ensure a progressive programme.

#### **i. Liaison with primary schools**

We will endeavour to work with our feeder primary schools to develop clear and acceptable aims that show consistency to students across all key stages of education.

### **8. Specific Issues**

#### **a. Contraception**

Contraception is a named part of the programme to be delivered to form groups in Years 8 and 9 by their form teacher or other appropriate member of staff. This includes methods of contraception, planned parenthood and responsibilities to self and others. The written guidelines given to every member of staff give clear guidance for dealing with individual students and outlines the path they must follow.

#### **b. Confidentiality and procedures**

Written guidelines are very clear about their role within the school health programme. If there are any doubts there is a clear procedure to get advice and support. All staff have a copy of these in their staff handbook and are reminded of their responsibilities and procedures at the start of a school year.

Child protection is paramount and as a school we are committed to helping students to keep safe from harm.

#### **c. Right to be excused from sex education**

Under section 241 of the Education Reform Act of 1993, parents and/or carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all sex education delivered as part of statutory relationships and sex education, other than those taught within the science curriculum. Before granting any such request, the PSHCE coordinator would discuss with parents and/or carers to ensure their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. This process is documented and written confirmation is requested.

#### **e. Working with external agencies**

The school has excellent links with external organisations that enhance the delivery of the PSHCE programme. They bring specialist knowledge and different ways of engaging with students. School is responsible for ensuring the credentials of the visitor or organisation is checked prior to their visit. The content delivered by the visitor will fit within the planned programme and the PSHCE coordinator will ensure that the content is age appropriate. All visitors to the school will be briefed on the schools policy and procedures; particularly with regards to safeguarding and child protection.

#### **f. Support procedures**

Pastoral support and form teachers are aware that effective Relationships and Sex Education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. All staff are aware of the safeguarding procedures in school and will consult with the designated safeguarding lead.

#### **9. Working with parents and /or carers**

We will endeavour to ensure that all our parents and/or carers are aware of the aims and content of the PSHCE programme. A letter, containing the content overview, is distributed to parents and/or carers every academic year. The letter also details the parents/carers rights to withdraw their child from certain aspects of the curriculum. The contact details of the PSHCE coordinator and deputy head are provided should parents/carers wish for more detailed information, a copy of the school Relationship and Sex Education policy or to request a formal meeting.

#### **10. Dissemination of policy**

A copy of the policy will be available, on request, for any parent, carer or any other person who has concern or relevant interest. The policy will also be disseminated to all staff.

#### **11. Monitoring and evaluation of the policy**

The policy is a consultation and discussion working document, which will be reviewed tri-annually by the Head teacher, Senior Leadership Team, and PSHCE Co-ordinator. Those staff in the first instance will act as monitors of the policy. Any changes will be discussed and agreed with the school governors.

### **Bibliography**

Department for Education (2019) Relationships Education, relationships and sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers.

PSHE Asscoiation (2018) Writing your school's relationship and sex education (RSE) policy

PSHE Association (2019) We've got it covered ... Mapping the PSHE Association programme of study to new statutory guidance on health education and relationships education/RSE.