



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
**HIPPERHOLME**  
Established 1648

**POLICY  
FOR  
SEX AND  
RELATIONSHIP  
EDUCATION  
(SRE)**

## **HGSF POLICY STATEMENT:**

### **SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION (Senior School)**

#### **Rationale**

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. There is a co-ordinated and developmental programme of Sex and Relationships Education throughout Years 7-11 delivered through R.S. and Science lessons, linked closely to the pupils' personal development.

#### **Principles and Values**

The School believes that SRE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Aim to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Encourage students and teachers to respect each other's views. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents are key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals and other mentors or advisers.

Sex and Relationship Education in this school has three main elements:

#### **1. Attitudes and Values**

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making;
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

## 2. **Personal and Social Skills**

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

## 3. **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;

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

### **How SRE is delivered**

Much of the Sex and Relationship Education at HGSF takes place within RE lessons and will focus on the emotional and moral aspects of development and relationships, although physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The Science Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development, health and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

A student at HGSF should develop knowledge and understanding of the following:

- a) Factual information concerning physical changes at puberty, male/female reproductive organs, sexual intercourse, conception, foetal development, pregnancy and birth.(Science Y7/Y8 /Y9/Y10)
- b) Emotional aspects of developing sexuality. (R.S.Y9)
- c) The nature of contraception and the various methods employed. (R.S.Y9) (Science Y7/Y9/Y10)
- d) Sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. (R.S.Y9) (Science Y8 /Y9)
- e) National and controversial issues such as abortion, homosexuality and sexual abuse. (Discussions of these issues should be objective and attempt to explore all sides of the argument honestly). (R.S.Y10)
- f) Some account of the law applying to sexual relationships involving under16, to homosexuality and to abortion. (R.S.Y9)

### **Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education**

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity.