

St Andrew's College

Relationships and Sex Education Procedure

Rationale

Effective Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is essential if our young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about how they conduct their lives. It contributes to promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, emotional, mental and physical development, preparing the young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

RSE is a huge part of our Personal, Social and Health Education programme, taught through the ASDAN qualification and supplemented by Science. We will ensure that the approach we take is age-related and tailored to their emotional maturity, in order to meet the needs of our young people as they grow and mature.

Scope

Relationship and Sex Education is part of the early stages of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about respect, love and care and the benefits of making and maintaining a stable relationship. We recognise that to be human is to experience sexual feelings, seek connections with other people and develop relationships which may be physical or non-physical.

Our teaching of Relationship and Sex education is applicable to all sexual orientations and will include teaching aspects of sex and sexual health. We will help the young people to be understanding and tolerant of differences and similarities between people that arise from a number of factors, including cultural, ethnic, racial and religious diversity, family type, gender and disability. RSE seeks to enable young people to feel positive about themselves, to manage relationships and access the infrastructure of support available via teachers, the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) and other appropriate adults.

Aims

We will provide our young people with an age appropriate RSE programme that is tailored to their physical and emotional maturity. It should enable them to make positive choices about their sexual and emotional health in the future.

We will achieve this aim by following the ASDAN PSHE Short Course, which meets the requirements of the new statutory guidance for relationships, sex and health education in England, (September 2020).

St Andrew's College Relationships and Sex Education Procedure

Attitudes and values

- Learning to care about other people and being sensitive towards their needs and views.
- Learning the importance of values, and individual conscience and moral considerations.
- Accepting the differences between people and learning not to exploit them.
- Learning the value of family life, marriage, and the importance of stable, loving and caring relationships for the nurture of children.
- Learning to respect oneself and others and being honest, loyal and trustworthy in relationships.
- Learning to take responsibility for one's actions in all situations.
- Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas; and 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.
- Learning how to make well informed and responsible decisions about their lives and developing an appreciation of the consequences of the choices made.
- Managing conflict.
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and understanding

- Learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages.
- Understanding human sexuality, reproduction, aspects of sexual health, emotions and relationships.

We believe that RSE will be achieved by providing an environment and atmosphere where the young people feel safe, relaxed, not intimidated, but focussed; and where they have confidence and trust in the knowledge, ability and skills of their teachers and multi-disciplinary team.

Parents/Carers/MDT

St Andrew's College is committed to working in close partnership with parents, carers and the Multi-Disciplinary Team. If requested and where appropriate, parents/carers will be invited to discuss the RSE programme and to view the teaching materials and resources that will be used.

St Andrew's College Relationships and Sex Education Procedure

Parents, who have parental responsibility, have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of those aspects of the RSE programme. In instances where the young person is not under the care of their parents, the social worker/MDT should be consulted if any staff member is concerned about any part of the RSE programme being taught. If requested by the parent, carer or MDT, alternative arrangements will be agreed and made for individual learners.

The complex nature of the young people at St Andrew's means that their background history must be taken into account before starting modules that could cause them distress. Teachers will liaise with Psychology to discuss if certain modules are appropriate and/or if the young person is ready to begin the RSE module.

Management of RSE

RSE is delivered through planned modules within the ASDAN PSHE Short Course.

Occasionally, issues about RSE may arise spontaneously in other lessons where it is not the main focus of the lesson.

The young people will be taught individually or in small groups. When deemed appropriate, they will be taught in separate gender groups. Provision will be tailored to the age-related needs (13-18) of the young people.

Visitors may be invited to deliver aspects of the RSE programme, where this happens we will ensure that all safeguarding requirements are met. Visitors will be used to support not supplant, the role of the teacher and they will always be accompanied in the lesson by a teacher. Visitors will always be fully briefed on their contribution to the programme and will be given a copy of the current policy beforehand.

Review

This procedure will be reviewed every two years by the College Governing Body.