

## **Ellesmere College Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

This policy takes account of statutory guidance and will be regularly updated to take account in changes of this.

### **Aims**

The purpose of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is to provide knowledge and understanding of how the human body changes during puberty and the processes of human reproduction, within the context of relationships based on love and respect. It should develop understanding and attitudes which will help pupils to form relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and to appreciate the value of stable family life, including the responsibilities of parenthood and marriage. Our relationships and sex education is always culturally sensitive to meet the needs of the diverse group of young people our College caters for, including those of particular religious backgrounds or none, and those who may identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered. We actively promote tolerance and understanding within our school community and hope that our students will take this into their future lives.

The main aims of relationship and sex education at Ellesmere College can be summarised as follows:

1. To provide accurate and relevant information about the physical and emotional changes that children and young people will experience through their formative years and into adulthood.
2. To establish an awareness of the importance of stable family life and relationships, including the responsibilities of parenthood and marriage.
3. To foster self-awareness and self-esteem.
4. To develop a sense of responsibility and respect for themselves and others.

### **Curriculum**

The scheme of work is tailored to suit the group but may cover:

1. Friendships and healthy relationships
2. The differences between males and females
3. Physical changes in adolescence
4. Emotional changes in adolescence
5. The importance of hygiene in adolescence

6. Making informed decisions, including saying “no”
7. Contraception and safe sex
8. Sexually transmitted diseases
9. Pregnancy and childcare
10. Staying safe online
11. Staying on the right side of the law

Where a need is identified students can be offered 1:1 support, for instance through the PANTS programme (which helps young people and children understand and respect their own privacy and that of others) or through specific tailored work which would always be agreed with parents or carers first.

Most lessons are taught in tutor groups which are generally mixed gender but sometimes class tutors may decide that for a particular group it is necessary to teach certain topics in single sex groups.

For younger students the bulk of relationships and sex education will focus on healthy friendships and general social skills, with an increased focus on puberty as that time approaches. As students become older and are at a stage of maturity where they can understand the more complex issues around physical relationships these topics are sensitively introduced, with an emphasis on the need to have a close and loving relationship (which for many people means marriage) before it is wise to begin a sexual relationship.

The aim of lessons is always to allow students a safe forum to ask questions and to understand their own thoughts and feelings, and to provide students with the tools to stay safe and happy and, when the time is right, to understand what makes a good healthy relationship and that they have a right to expect this from their own relationships in future.

### Legal matters

At present parents and guardians have the right to withdraw their young person from all or part of relationships and sex education until a young person reaches 18 years of age. The physical facts of reproduction and differences between male and female bodies are also taught in Science from years 7-11 and as this is a statutory subject students may not be withdrawn from these lessons.

Parents that are concerned about any aspect of their child’s development with respect to relationships and sex education, or who are considering withdrawing their child from all or part of the relationships and sex education curriculum should either write to the college outlining their concerns, or contact their child’s form tutor, who may then put them in touch with the head of PSHE or another appropriate member of staff.

Before relationships and sex education lessons begin in any academic year parents are notified in writing. You can return a reply slip attached to this letter to request that you are

contacted regarding any issues that concern you. Many parents use this to request that we cover particular issues that are especially relevant to their young person. We are very happy to discuss your concerns and hope that we will be able to offer reassurance.

#### Assessment and record keeping

As with other aspects of PSHE, relationships and sex education is primarily assessed through BSquared and work in this area will help students progress toward their targets. There are many other aspects which we assess less formally which we feel are just as important, and we will always teach to the needs of the group or individual student.

#### Organisation and resources

In Relationships and sex education we use a variety of resources including specialist DVDs, paper resources and websites. Your child's tutor will be responsible for choosing the appropriate resources to meet the needs of the group best.

#### Involvement of the wider community

The school nurse supports the delivery of relationships and sex education and may work with particular students who need extra support. Occasionally outside bodies may be invited to work within the college to further enhance our teaching to particular groups of students. We welcome the involvement of parents and carers in helping us to ensure that our curriculum meets the needs of all the pupils at Ellesmere College and will always reply to requests to discuss any matters related to relationship and sex education in a timely fashion.

#### Monitoring and review

This policy has been drafted by the head of department D Adams and awaits ratification by the school governors. It will be monitored and updated on an annual basis to take account of statutory changes or changes in the needs of our cohort.