

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Statement

Throughout their time at HCHS pupils are taught Personal & Social Development (PSD). These lessons focus on health matters, friendships, mental health issues, knife crime, exam stress, finance and money, and a comprehensive careers program.

As part of these lessons, the school is required to deliver Relationship and Sex Education (RSE). This has been compulsory in all schools since 2020. The government asks that all schools make it clear to parents and carers what is taught in RSE and that is the purpose of this document, which draws together some parts of our school policies on PSHE (which we call PSD) and RSE. The full RSE policy can be found on our website at <https://www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk/information-for-parents/policies/>

A clear framework of values for sex education underpins our work at Hanley Castle High School.

These are to foster:

- A respect for self
- A respect for others
- Non-exploitation in sexual relations
- An exploration of the rights, duties and responsibilities involved in sexual relationships
- An acknowledgement and understanding of diversity regarding religion, culture, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability and social class
- Zero tolerance of sexual misconduct, sexual violence and sexual harassment

Further:

- We believe that people have the right to fair and balanced information to make healthier choices for themselves.
- We encourage realistic discussion about the effects of early sexual activity and society's attitude towards this.
- The personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of sex and relationship education within the PSD framework.

Objective discussion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues will take place in sex and relationship education lessons in order to meet the needs of all pupils. There will be no promotion of any sexual orientation.

In the PSD programme we attempt to select activities and resources which are age, experience, reading level and culturally appropriate. All lessons attempt to engage boys and girls equally well.

From 2020, the teaching of Relationship and Sex Education is compulsory in all schools in England and Wales. Under this guidance, pupils are taught:

- that there are different types of important relationships, including marriage, other long-term relationships, the roles of parents, and about unsafe relationships and how they can be dealt with

- the characteristics of positive relationships, respect, trust and practical steps they can take, as well as the dangers of stereotypes, bullying, harassment and coercion
- how to deal with unsafe situations including those of consent, exploitation, abuse and FGM
- about the concept of consent in a variety of contexts (including in sexual relationships)
- about managing loss, including bereavement, separation and divorce
- the rights and responsibilities, risks and dangers of online interaction, harmful images and how they are shared, including the law on the distribution of indecent images
- Sexual Health and Relationships, as outlined in the RSE policy
- the law in respect of, but not limited to, marriage, consent, violence against women and girls, online behaviours, abortion, substance misuse, criminal exploitation
- how to identify and access appropriate advice and support

Most of the content that falls under Sex Education occurs in Year 9, when a programme of 5 lessons is undertaken in PSD. These lessons focus on:

- Reasons why people have romantic relationships; reflecting on their own relationships and how their behaviour and the behaviour of others can affect them; and how to recognise unhealthy relationships and suggest strategies for staying safe.
- The origins of gender roles; gender identities, with reference to the 2010 Equalities Act; views on sexualities and some of the more common terms; types of attraction. This meets the guidance that 'RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity'.
- Influences on fertility and routes to pregnancy; the law and other influences on abortion.
- The meaning of consent; myths about consent; the key messages of consent.
- Laws about the making, viewing or sharing of sexual images; the risks and harms associated with pornography.
- Social, physical and emotional risks of sexual relationships; 'Safe sex', including but not limited to types of contraception; the use of condoms.