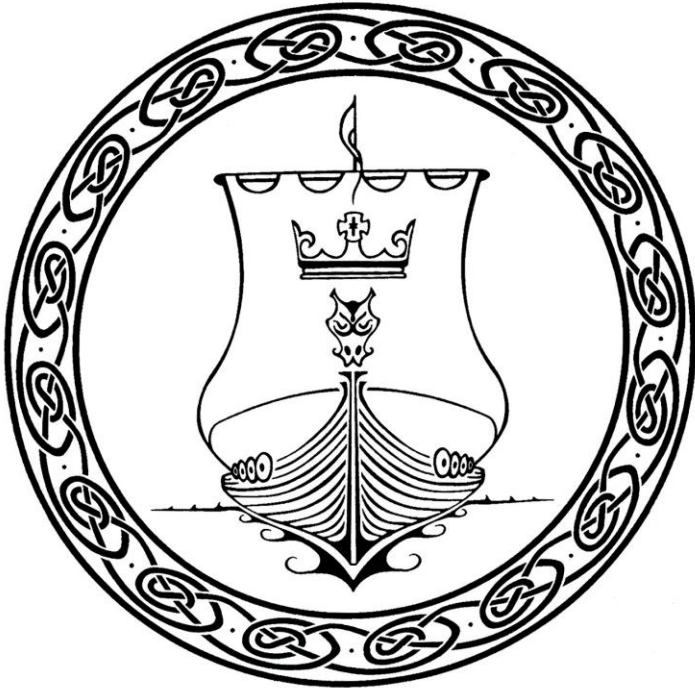




Queen Elizabeth II High School
Relationships and Sex Education Policy



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Preamble

This policy was developed in response to the Isle of Man Government's Relationships and Sex Education policy. It should be read in conjunction with that policy and with the policy for child protection and safeguarding.

The consultation process has involved discussions with the wider school community, including Head of Subjects and the Student Council. All policies are subject to final approval by the Governing Body.

Definition of relationships and sex education

We define relationships education as learning about the physical, social, legal and emotional aspects of human relationships including friendships, intimate, sexual and committed relationships and family life.

We define sex education as learning about the physical, social, legal and emotional aspects of human sexuality and behaviour, including human reproduction. This includes conception and contraception, safer sex, sexually transmitted infections and sexual health.

We take the approach that Relationships and Sex Education are best approached in an integrated way and using a gender equity and human rights framework.

Scope

All students will receive RSE in accordance with this policy and all staff are bound to follow the policy. The school works with other agencies to help to implement this policy. Individual support and guidance on specific personal health issues is provided for students on request.

Specialists and CPD will be available to support teachers who may be uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the curriculum.

RSE aims to:

- Give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It will enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship
- Teach young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. Knowledge about safer sex and sexual health will be delivered in a non-judgemental, factual way and allow scope for young people to ask questions in a safe environment. Contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure) will be covered
- Explore sexual orientation and gender identity at a timely point and in a clear, sensitive and respectful manner



- Equip students to make decisions for themselves about how to live their own lives, whilst respecting the right of others to make their own decisions and hold their own beliefs
- Sensitively address grooming, FGM, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour
- Teach students the principles and rules for keeping safe online.

We believe that through providing high quality RSE, we are upholding the ethos and values of our school and its commitment to equality and celebration of difference.

Equality, inclusion and social justice

We believe that RSE is a key vehicle for promoting equality, inclusion and social justice.

Our RSE is designed to promote gender equality through challenging gender stereotypes and sexism and sexual harassment in schools. We take these issues seriously and ensure that we embed content on gender equality throughout the curriculum.

We are also committed to an RSE that makes every pupil feel valued and included and is relevant to them. This means we are committed to an LGBTQ+ inclusive and SEND inclusive curriculum. We will also ensure that we take into account the religious and cultural background of all pupils when teaching RSE.

An inclusive RSE at QEII High School will seek to challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice between pupils and promote understanding and respect as outlined under the Equality Act 2017.

Confidentiality and sensitivity

Any RSE 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 lessons. 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. Where appropriate, students will be provided with information as to where they can access confidential advice and guidance.

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality if a child makes a disclosure during an RSE lesson. In cases where a child may be at risk, then the Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures must be followed.

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education

Parents/carers have the right to request their child be withdrawn from all or part of sex education lessons that are delivered as part of RSE. Parents/carers do not have a right to withdraw their child from Relationships Education or Health Education. Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from any sex education delivered as part of the Science



curriculum. All children will have the right to opt into sex education three terms before they turn 16 and the school will make arrangements for this to happen.

If parents/carers do decide to withdraw their child, they should inform the Headteacher in writing and the school will keep a record of this. Except in exceptional circumstances, we will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child up to and until three terms before the child turns 16.

Organisation and delivery of RSE

Queen Elizabeth II High School specifically delivers RSE through its PSHE lessons and 'bespoke drop-down days' at age-appropriate times throughout the students' education. Other subjects will develop aspects of RSE as appropriate.

Working with visitors and external agencies

From time-to-time we may invite external experts and visitors to deliver parts of our RSE scheme of work. External visitors will be selected in order to enrich and supplement our RSE by bringing particular skills, methods and expertise to the classroom and the whole school.

Any external visitor will be expected to comply with this policy and other related policies.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

The school is required to offer and evaluate care, guidance and support to pupils. This includes evaluating and commentating on the school's RSE policy, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.

Evaluation of our programme is crucial to ensure that we can continue to improve on provision and teaching effectiveness. The evaluation process involves pupil and staff feedback.

Responsibility

The responsibility for the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education within QEII High School lies with the Head Teacher.

Other Relevant Policies

The RSE policy works in conjunction with other school policies, namely the Equal Opportunities and Inclusion, Anti-bullying and Child Protection and Safeguarding.