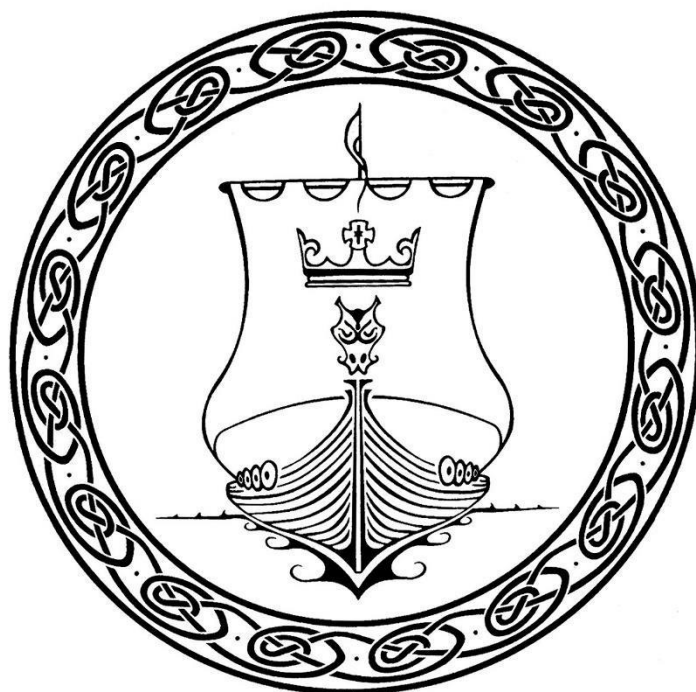


Queen Elizabeth II High School

Sex & Relationships Education Policy



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Preamble

This policy was developed in response to the Isle of Man Government's Relationships and Sex Education guidance and should be read alongside the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and relevant DESC guidance.

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 (RSE)

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

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

At QE2, RSE forms part of the wider Life Curriculum, which encompasses Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and promotes equality, wellbeing safeguarding and respect for others.

Scope

All students will receive RSE in accordance with this policy and all staff are bound to follow the policy. School works with external agencies where appropriate to support delivery.

We recognise that parents and carers are the primary educators of their children and seek to work in partnership with families.

Specialist support and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities will be available for staff delivering RSE.

RSE Aims

RSE aims to:

- Give students the knowledge and skills to develop healthy, respectful and nurturing relationships.
- Teach students to understand human sexuality and develop respect for themselves and others.

- Provide factual, age-appropriate and non-judgemental information about sexual health, safer sex, contraception, consent and healthy intimate relationships.
- Explore sexual orientation and gender identity in a clear, sensitive and respectful manner.
- Equip students to make informed decisions whilst respecting the beliefs and choices of others.
- Address issues including grooming, exploitation, coercive and controlling behaviour, online abuse and domestic abuse.
- Promote emotional wellbeing, equality, inclusion and safeguarding.
- Support students to stay safe online and develop healthy digital relationships.

We believe that high-quality RSE supports the ethos and values of our school and contributes positively to students' wellbeing, safety and personal development.

Equality, Inclusion and Social Justice

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

Our RSE curriculum is designed to challenge prejudice, discrimination, sexism, sexual harassment and harmful stereotypes. We are committed to ensuring that all students feel represented and included within the curriculum, including students with SEND and those who identify as LGBTQ+.

Teaching will take account of the religious and cultural backgrounds of students whilst promoting respect, dignity and equality for all in line with the Isle of Man Equality Act 2017.

Confidentiality and Sensitivity

RSE lessons may raise sensitive issues for students. Ground rules will be established to create a safe and respectful learning environment where students understand appropriate boundaries for discussion.

Teachers will answer questions honestly and appropriately, taking into account the age and maturity of students. Where a question is not appropriate for a whole class response, it may be addressed individually at another time.

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. If a safeguarding concern is disclosed, staff will follow the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures.

Students will be signposted to appropriate sources of confidential support and advice where necessary.

Organisation and Delivery of RSE

RSE is delivered through the school's Life Curriculum, including:

- Timetabled PSHE lessons
- Drop Down Days
- Assemblies and themed events
- Tutor time programme
- Contributions from external agencies and specialist visitors
- Relevant curriculum areas where appropriate

The curriculum is delivered in an age-appropriate and inclusive manner.

Information about the curriculum content is available through the school and DESC resources.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

The Director of Personal Development is responsible for coordinating the RSE provision, supporting staff and overseeing curriculum development.

DESC has committed to supporting schools through the provision of guidance and training. School will liaise with DESC to facilitate appropriate staff training and personal development opportunities.

All staff delivering RSE are expected to:

- Deliver content in a professional, balanced and inclusive manner
- Maintain appropriate safeguarding procedures
- Engage in relevant CPD and training
- Support students respectfully and sensitively

Right of Withdrawal

Parents and carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all elements of sex education delivered as part of the RSE curriculum. Requests cannot be made for withdrawal from statutory Science content or from broader relationships, health or safeguarding elements delivered through the Life Curriculum.

We strongly believe that participation in RSE is important in supporting students' safety, wellbeing and personal development. Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the school before making a decision.

Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Following a request:

1. A meeting will be arranged with the parent/carer and the Director of Personal Development, and where appropriate the student, to discuss the request and provide clarity regarding curriculum content.
2. The educational, social and safeguarding benefits of RSE will be explained.
3. The discussion and outcome will be recorded.
4. Appropriate alternative supervised educational provision will be arranged where withdrawal is agreed.

Parents' right to withdraw their child from sex education ceases three terms before the student turns 16, at which point the student may choose to opt in themselves

Working with Visitors and External Agencies

School may invite external agencies and specialists to contribute to aspects of the RSE programme in order to enrich learning and provide specialist expertise.

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

Monitoring and Evaluation of Relationship and Sex Education

The school is required to offer and evaluate care, guidance and support to students. 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 student and staff feedback.

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.