

<b>Person Responsible:</b>	D. Watkins (PSHE Lead), ratified by V. Howe (Deputy Head)
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	September 2023
<b>Next review due by:</b>	September 2024
<b>Created:</b>	September 2013
<b>Revisions:</b>	September 2014, 2016, 2018, June 2020, September 2021 and September 2022

*Gretton School is owned and operated by Newcome Education, a subsidiary group of Cavendish Education.*

*This Policy is one of a series of School Policies that, taken together, are designed to form a comprehensive statement of the School's aspiration to provide an outstanding education for each and every one of its learners and of the mechanisms and procedures in place to achieve this. Accordingly, this Policy should be read alongside all of these Policies in order to get the full picture. In particular it should be read in conjunction with the Equality Policy, the Health and Safety Policy and the Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy.*

*All of these Policies have been written, not simply to meet statutory and other requirements, but to evidence the work that the whole School is undertaking to ensure the implementation of its core values.*

*In all the School's Policies, unless the specific context requires otherwise, the word "parent" is used in terms of Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, which states that a 'parent', in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who is not a parent (from which can be inferred 'biological parent') but who has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child. [Department for Education guidance](#) considers a 'parent' to include:*

- *all biological parents, whether they are married or not*
- *any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative*
- *any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person*

*A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.*

*The School employs the services of the following consulting companies to ensure regulatory compliance and the implementation of best practice:*

- *Peninsula HROnline*
- *Peninsula BusinessSafe (Health and Safety)*
- *Carecheck (DBS)*
- *Educare (online CPD)*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Relationship and Sex Education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It ought to provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It should encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow learners to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- To enable learners to understand the biological aspects of reproduction
- To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning in terms of personal preference and their social and moral implications
- To recognise and be able to discuss sensitive and controversial issues such as conception, virginity, birth, child-rearing, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, values, beliefs and morality
- To make learners aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society and recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health and personal safety
- To make learners aware that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and that people have the right not to be sexually active
- To understand the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact on lifestyles, e.g. the menopause
- To recognise that parenthood is a matter of choice
- To critically analyse moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups
- To understand the concept of stereotyping and to discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals
- To understand aspects of legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender and equal opportunities and to make aware the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships

## 3 DELIVERY

Relationship and Sex Education at Gretton School is taught in a cross curricular way through Science and Personal, Social and Health Education. The diverse staffing and the variety of experience contained within this teaching body are seen as a valuable resource for the delivery of relationship and sex education. The provision of Relationship and Sex Education is seen as progressive in terms of language, concepts and content which increases in depth and complexity as learners' progress through the school. This takes into account the variety of

needs of learners at the school and the impact that an autistic spectrum condition can have on learners' understanding and abilities in this subject.

Throughout the course of teaching a variety of sensitive issues will inevitably be explored. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal matter. The teaching of Relationship and Sex Education at Gretton School places stress upon the need for understanding and awareness of a variety of sexual preferences across the spectrum of human sexuality. It is intended that learners will be given up-to-date information on a wide variety of contraceptive methods and, whilst general statements about the efficacy of these methods will be given, specific advice and guidance to individuals will not be made without consultation with the parents.

## 4 RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM

### 4.1 Introduction

Gretton School offers an education for the whole person, body, mind and spirit. Part of the make-up of all humans is that they are sexual beings. It would be irresponsible of the school to ignore this. The Relationship and Sex Education programme at Gretton aims to be a sensitive and responsible one which is set in a moral and social framework. It also aims to meet the statutory provision which has been outlined in various Government documents.

### 4.2 Context

The responsibility for raising children rests with parents. Schools must recognise that parents are key figures in helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings.

The teaching offered by Gretton is seen as complementary and supportive to the role of parents. In an attempt to achieve this, the 1988 Education Reform Act (Section 1) states that all learners should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of relationship and sex education during their school careers through a curriculum which: "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of learners at school and of society; and prepares such learners for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life."

It is recognised that relationship and sex education is a difficult issue which will place demands on schools and teachers. However, the purpose of this curriculum is to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction. At the same time it should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare learners to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

The relationship and sex education delivered should be tailored not only to the age, but also to the understanding of learners. At Gretton School, the curriculum will present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. It will be set within a clear framework of values and

an awareness of the law regarding sexual behaviour. Learners will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. Such matters will be treated with sensitivity and great care will be taken to encourage all children to feel a sense of worth. Particular care will be taken when issues such as marital breakdown and divorce are dealt with.

## 5 DEFINITION OF SEX EDUCATION

The law does not give a definitive statement as to what relationship and sex education is. At Gretton School it is regarded as education about sexual matters within a values framework, focusing upon responsibility within caring, committed relationships. The curriculum will concentrate on the facts of human reproductive processes and behaviour, HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, contraception and abortion, and a consideration of the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes, including consent.

The Parental Right to Withdraw their Son or Daughter from Sex Education Lessons:

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of relationship and sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order. It is realised that, under exceptional circumstances, a very small number of parents may wish to exclude their children from this programme. In this case, such parents should write to the Head teacher, stating their objections. The schemes of work contained within this document will enable parents to estimate the point at which specific aspects of sex education will be delivered to their child. The biological element of reproduction remains within the National Curriculum Science Order for Key Stage 3. Other topics are covered within the PSHE curriculum.

## 6 ADVICE TO INDIVIDUAL learners

It is understood that it is important to distinguish between the School's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and the giving of advice to individual learners on these issues. Good teachers take a pastoral interest in the welfare and well-being of their learners and provide an environment in which learners feel safe enough to explore and ask questions about sensitive matters without influence from staff based on their own personal views or beliefs.

It is also understood that this function should never trespass on the proper exercise of parental rights and responsibilities. It is understood that particular care must be exercised in relation to giving contraceptive advice to learners under the age of sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. It is the general rule that giving an individual learner advice on such matters without parental knowledge or consent would be inappropriate.

Where the circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the learner has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which may place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has a responsibility to ensure that they follow the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures accordingly.

## 7 AIMS

In the attempt to enable learners to acquire knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes and behaviour with regard to relationship and sex education, Gretton School aims to provide an educational experience for its learners which will present opportunities:

- To help learners to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, consent, loyalty and fidelity;
- To enable learners to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour and to accept that both sexes should behave responsibly in sexual matters;
- To support the personal development and social skills of the learners;
- To ensure that learners have an understanding of their own and others' sexuality;
- To enjoy relationships based upon mutual respect and responsibility which are free from abuse, coercion and exploitation;
- To provide information and knowledge which will counteract prejudice and ignorance;
- To develop an understanding of risk and to promote strategies for personal safety;
- To enable learners to be aware of the sources of help and to acquire the skills and confidence to use them.

This policy should be viewed in line with the Positive Relationships Policy, the Personal, Social and Health Education Policy, the Safeguarding Policy and the Curriculum Policy.