

Contraceptive Advice:

Pupils will be informed about the different contraceptives available, the mechanism by which these contraceptives work and any long or short-term side effects of using these contraceptives. Individuals will not be given advice on specific contraception for themselves. However, they may be advised on where to get this information.

Confidentiality:

The School aims to support young people but no individual member of staff will guarantee a pupil absolute confidentiality. It may be necessary if a child protection issue arises that certain 'confidences' must be passed on. The procedure for this is outlined in the '**Whole School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**'.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Monitoring and evaluation of the Relationships and Sex Education programme will take place at the end of each unit delivered, using feedback from both pupils and members of staff. At this time, local issues will be considered to ensure that the curriculum content fits the needs of the young people receiving it. Any need for staff training will also be assessed.

The Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be reviewed annually by the Headmaster, Senior Assistant Head (DSL), Assistant Head Pastoral (Senior) and Governors. Any change in government policy will also be looked at during these reviews or updated mid-year where necessary.



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The Policy:

The '**Relationships and Sex Education Policy**' has been formulated with the DfE '*Sex and Relationships Guidance*' 2000 in mind. The policy was last reviewed in March 2024 and will be reviewed annually.

The aim of the policy is to communicate clearly to staff, parents and visitors the manner in which sex education is delivered at Cranford School and the ethos that we hope to promote.

Moral Guidance and Framework:

Clear guidelines are provided in Section 403 of the Education Act 1996:

'the Governing Body and the Head teacher shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where sex education is given to any registered pupils at the school it is given in such a manner as to encourage those to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.'

The Relationships and Sex Education units are in line with the whole School ethos and encourage the following values:

- Respect for self and others;
- Respect for difference;
- Responsibility for own actions;
- Regard for family life, friends and wider community;
- The rights of the individual;
- Equality.

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Last Reviewed March 2024

Relationships and Sex Education

Delivery of Relationships and Sex Education in the Senior School:

Relationships and Sex Education is a statutory government requirement and, therefore, a core unit in our PSHCEE programme. It is delivered to all pupils from Year 7 to 13. Some aspects will also be covered in Science and RS lessons. Pupils will be taught by trained PSHCEE teachers. Occasionally, a visiting specialist may be invited. Lessons will focus on both 'Facts' and 'Feelings'. Information on when this topic is delivered can be obtained from the Head of PSHCEE. Boys and girls will be taught separately for specific aspects of the course, such as the lesson on the menstrual cycle and changes during puberty. This is to allow the pupils to feel comfortable asking questions with their peers.

Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to consider what factors are essential in developing stable and loving relationships.
 - To develop pupils' confidence and self-esteem to exert their rights as individuals and help them to be able to form stable and loving relationships.
 - To provide pupils with the opportunities to develop a greater understanding of self-responsibility and the consequences of decisions and actions.
 - To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding about sexual health and relationship services that are available to them, and to ensure they know how to access these services.
- For pupils to be aware of unacceptable behaviour
- and their rights.
 - To enable pupils to develop the skills necessary to protect themselves from exploitation, coercion, and control.

· **Aim:**

-Provide a framework in which sensitive, age-appropriate discussions can take place.

· Prepare pupils for key personal and physical transition points as they grow up and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.

· Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

Help young people learn to respect themselves and others, and move with confidence from childhood, through adolescence to adulthood.

· The RSE policy aims to reinforce the school's values: confidence, generosity of spirit, happiness, motivation and challenge.

· Teach the content via a whole school approach, so contributions can be made by different curriculum areas, and so that teaching can be reinforced by the general ethos of the School in creating a supportive environment for all pupils.

· Encourage our pupils to consider personal relationships in the widest sense, including morals, the importance of marriage and family life.

- Promote positive health, well-being and resilience among our pupils to ensure they are able to form positive, healthy and mutual relationships with others.

· Teach pupils to have zero tolerance towards negative behaviours and interactions such as misogyny, sexual or racial abuse.

All teaching delivered is sensitive and age-appropriate in approach and content, and ensures that careful consideration is given to the protected characteristics when planning and delivering lessons at different learning stages

Content:

Important issues will be revisited according to pupils' needs and their levels of maturity to allow for individual development.

Year 7:

Puberty (physical & emotional changes)
Male & female sex organs*
Fertilization, pregnancy, development of the foetus*
Birth*
Reasons to have a baby

Year 8:

Understanding Contraception
HIV and AIDS
Coercion and unhealthy/healthy relationships

Year 9:

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how they can be transmitted
Clarify information about STIs
Facts about the correct use of condoms
The Law and Sex

Year 10:

Sexuality and gender identity
Differences
STI's
Contraception
Alcohol and sex
Coping with difficult/risky situations
Abortion**
Marriage**
IVF Treatment*
Consent and legality surrounding rape
Pornography

Year 11:

Teenage pregnancy
Avoiding/dealing with risky situations & exploitation
Portrayal of sex in the media
Good sexual health.

** taught in Science ** taught in RS*

Sensitive Issues:

Controversial topics may arise which depend upon the judgement of the teacher to decide whether subjects are suitable for class discussion following these guidelines:

- The teacher will establish a set of ground rules so that pupils are aware of parameters.
- If a question is too personal or explicit, the teacher will acknowledge it and deal with it outside the whole class setting.
- Where discussions about sexual behaviour arise, the teacher will give attention to relevant issues using professional judgement.
- If a pupil needs further support, the teacher will refer them to a relevant party.

Any concern about sexual abuse will be referred immediately to the Senior Assistant Head (DSL)

Working with Parents and Right to Withdraw:

The School is committed to working with parents and undertook consultation ahead of implementing the new RSE policy and curriculum. We recognise the right of parents to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided, but not from the teaching of biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under National Curriculum Science and therefore necessary by law. It is important to note that the statutory guidance states "There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary or secondary as we believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught."

Parents who wish to withdraw their children should contact Alison Stewart (Deputy Head DSL) to make the request. Following a meeting with the Deputy Head, parents complete a 'right to withdraw form' and the Head authorises any withdrawal requests.

Parents should be aware that, except in exceptional circumstances, we will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child from the Sex Education aspect of the RSE curriculum, up to an until three terms' before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive Sex Education we will make arrangements to provide it during one of those terms. This is in line with statutory guidance