



Mary Hare Policy: SCH005

Relationships & Sex Education Policy

Policy Owner: Charlie Hadley

Date Approved: To be approved

Approved by: Board of Governors

Next review date: March 2024



Securing the future of deaf children and young people

INTRODUCTION

1. This policy covers the approach adopted by Mary Hare (MH) in relation to the teaching of Relationships Education (RE) in the primary school (MHP) and of Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) in the secondary school (MHS) as set out in the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education in June 2019.
2. This statutory guidance states that RE is compulsory in all primary schools in England, RSE is compulsory in all secondary schools, and Health Education (HE) is compulsory in all state-funded schools. MHS and MHP have started teaching the new guidance from September 2020.
3. This policy has been written based on the current framework provided by the PSHE Association, which MH is a member of. This policy is available to parents/carers and other interested parties either as a written document or on the school website.

RATIONALE

4. At MH we believe that RE/RSE is important for our pupils as we recognise that the children and young people in our care need to know how to stay safe and healthy as they progress through their lives; they also need to be able to manage the demands of their personal, social and academic lives successfully in order to achieve positive outcomes. This takes added significance at MH as we provide 24-hour care for our boarding pupils, who make up the vast majority of the school's population, during term-time.
5. In addition, children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are recognised as one of the groups particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, and so it is appropriate and relevant that this is given prominence within the wider curriculum.
6. The nature of boarding away from home means that the majority of our parents are distanced, to varying degrees, from the learning processes that their children go through. Nevertheless, MH seeks to complement the role of parents/carers as prime educators by providing sound and current teaching on RE/RSE. It is, therefore, necessary to develop the partnership between home and school so that all interested parties are clear about what is being taught in RE/RSE and the reasoning behind this.
7. RE/RSE is delivered in an inclusive and non-judgemental manner that reflects current attitudes in society and which promotes respect for diversity. This includes challenging discriminatory views that are not considered to meet this inclusive approach.

8. The intended outcomes of our RE/RSE programme are that pupils will:

- Know and understand how to keep themselves safe and healthy, both physically and mentally;
- Understand they have a right to be listened to and respected, and to decide what happens to them;
- Understand they have a responsibility to follow laws and reasonable rules for the sake of themselves and those around them;
- Develop the skills to play an active role in looking after themselves and to contribute to their community;
- Develop the attributes necessary to take their place as independent and informed citizens and to overcome difficulties they may face.

DELIVERY

9. RE and RSE are seen as integral to the wider teaching of Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHEE) which has formed a formal part of the school curriculum at MH. Thus, RE/RSE will continue to be delivered within the time allocated to PSHEE.
10. At MHP, the RE programme will be led by the teacher with the responsibility for PSHE and taught by the class teacher, who are teachers of the deaf.
11. At MHS, the RSE programme will be led by the PSHE Leads with responsibility for PSHEE at Key Stages 3 and 4 and who will also work with the Deputy Head of Sixth Form who has responsibility for the Form Lesson programme at Key Stage 5. The PSHEE programme will be taught by teachers interested in teaching PSHEE as part of their timetable allocation. At present, PSHEE is taught in timetabled lessons across Key Stage 3, and within Religious Studies (as part of a carousel) at Key Stage 4.
12. Teachers with responsibility for PSHEE will prepare and review the programme of study; an outline of this programme is available on request. In addition, they will contribute to the appraisal process for teachers of PSHEE in order to identify and implement relevant training opportunities.
13. Teachers with responsibility for PSHEE will work with a designated member of the governing body to ensure that the policy and programme of study are fit for purpose and enable MH to provide a relevant and up-to-date education in RE/RSE. This working partnership will also be important in fostering links between school and parents/carers to ensure that the latter are informed and able to contribute to the ongoing development of the course.

PARENTAL RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

14. Aspects of physical development, including sexual development and reproduction, are covered as part of the National Curriculum (NC) in Science. As this is statutory, there is no parental right of withdrawal from these lessons. This means that parents/carers of pupils at MHP have no right of withdrawal from RE for their children. However, the right of withdrawal still applies for any sex education in addition to that covered as part of NC Science, and parents will be informed accordingly. Any request for withdrawal will be automatically granted by the Headteacher.
15. At MHS, parents/carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Such a request will initially be directed to the Headteacher who will then have the opportunity to engage in discussion with parents/carers before a decision is taken. This right of withdrawal applies up to and until 3 terms before the child's 16th birthday, at which point the child is deemed capable of deciding whether or not to attend the sex education lessons.
16. In the case that a child is withdrawn from any lessons, the school has a responsibility to continue to provide appropriate and purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

CURRICULUM DESIGN AND PRACTICE

17. At MHP the curriculum design incorporates the six themes of: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Differences, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me. .
18. We have adopted the PSHE Association's programme of study: the 3 themes are Health & Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World. These themes will also form the basis for the development of the Key Stage 4 programme.
19. Our RE/RSE programmes will be taught through a range of teaching methods and interactive activities which will allow pupils the opportunity to develop and clarify their understanding of relevant topics. Resources will be selected on the basis of their relevance and appropriateness and will take into account the level of maturity of the students and their support for the school's values. We have developed a shared resource of adapted and devised materials that have been found to work well with our students. We are also aware of the increased risk deaf young people and adults are for mental ill health so are following the National Deaf Children Society's Healthy Minds programme in the Year 8 curriculum.

20. Pupils will be encouraged to reflect on their own learning and progress in different topics and will be encouraged to complete evaluative tasks that will enable teachers to have an indication of the learning that has taken place. Pupils will also be asked for feedback on the effectiveness of the course and if there are any improvements that can be made.
21. Given the nature of the topics covered as part of RE/RSE, teachers will work to cultivate a safe learning environment that will enable sensitive topics to be discussed and encourage pupils to contribute actively to their learning, when they feel able, without fearing any untoward reactions from others; one way of ensuring this is to agree 'ground rules' for the lessons. Similarly, teachers will use distancing techniques, such as the use of case studies and scenarios, to avoid discussions becoming personal.
22. Where potentially sensitive or controversial issues arise, teachers will be encouraged to seek further advice if needed from colleagues, including ELSAs, or the PSHEE Association (or other reputable organisations) before responding to pupils.
23. Teachers are aware that effective RE/RSE can lead to disclosure of a child protection issue – in this case the teacher will follow the school's safeguarding procedure and consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or a Deputy DSL, if necessary).
24. Learning in RE/RSE is enhanced by having external agencies and visitors invited into school to contribute to certain topics. The teacher organising these sessions will need to ensure that any content and approaches used are appropriate to the pupils being taught, and that the visitors are aware of the school's safeguarding policy. For example SignHealth deliver 4 workshops around Healthy Relationships, consent, sexting to Year 9 pupils.
25. Parents/carers are encouraged to discuss concerns relating to RE/RSE with class teachers or the lead PSHEE teacher. This can be done via communication channels such as telephone or email, or parents/carers may wish to make an appointment with a teacher during the Parental Consultation Days which take place during the year.
26. Should there be a perceived need to make major changes to the delivery of RE/RSE, the designated governor and parents/carers will be informed and given an opportunity to air their views on any proposed changes.

Reviewed by Anne-Marie Brooke-Wavell and Charlie Hadley – 25/03/2022.

Additional materials for reference: PSHE Policy (March 2021)

Relationship and Health Education – New requirements 2020 (Primary) - 11/08/2020