

# REGENT HOUSE SCHOOL



## SEXUAL HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

## **1. RATIONALE**

Sexual health and relationships are important elements in the curriculum of the school in terms of preparing pupils for adult life. The government has firmly placed the responsibility on the governing body of a school to produce a written policy relating to the content and organisation of this. It is designed to provide for a sexual health and relationships programme which reinforces much of what has been done at primary school level and allows for the progression and development of the subject in the secondary phase appropriate to the maturity and needs of the pupils.

## **2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To present facts in an objective and balanced manner so as to enable pupils to be aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society.
2. To inform the pupils of the legal aspects.
3. To encourage pupils to consider their own attitudes and to help them make reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes they will adopt both while they are at school and later as adults.
4. To set the teaching about the physical aspects of sexual behaviour within a clear moral framework in which pupils are encouraged to consider the importance of self-restraint, personal dignity, respect for themselves and for others.
5. To alert pupils to the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous sexual behaviour.
6. To foster a recognition that both sexes should exercise responsibility in sexual matters.
7. To help pupils appreciate the benefits of stability in relationships, marriage and family life.
8. To develop an understanding of the responsibilities of parenthood.
9. To complement and support the role of parents in this important area of learning.

## **3. PROCEDURES**

The topics are dealt with through the following subject areas: Science, Home Economics, Religious Education, Physical Education, Health and Social Care and Learning for Life and Work and also through the classes provided by Matron. The content at each

stage will be appropriate to the stage of development of pupils and over the different stages will grow and develop the pupils' understanding.

At **Key Stage 3**, the issues covered range from personal hygiene, the process of reproduction through to sexuality and sexual activity including sexually transmitted diseases.

At **Key Stage 4**, many of the issues previously covered are revisited as well as IVF, birth control, teenage pregnancy and attitudes to sexuality and relationships.

Throughout the Key Stages external speakers are invited in to address pupils on a variety of health related topics to supplement the work done in the school. Sensitive issues such as abortion and contraception will be discussed as they arise in an open and objective manner. At all times pupils will be encouraged to have a due regard for moral considerations and the value of family life.

There is no statutory right for parents to withdraw their children from sex education provision. Parents wishing to withdraw their children must seek the permission of the Board of Governors through the Principal in the first instance.

Familyworks Counselling and our own school counsellor Mrs Gourley provide a counselling service in school for any pupil with health concerns. The system works through "self", "parental" or "teacher" referral.

Any areas for concern should be reported to the Vice Principal for Pastoral Care or any other member of the Safeguarding Team.

#### **4. REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

The policy will be reviewed at least once every four years by the Board of Governors. The policy will be kept under review by senior members of staff who will keep Governors informed of any difficulties that may arise.