

# St Olave's Grammar School



## SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It should equip children and young people with the information, skills and values to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being. SRE has been compulsory for pupils at maintained secondary schools since 1994.

### 1. AIMS

- To maintain a statutory obligation under the Children Act (2004) and Education Act (1996).
- To meet the requirements as outlined in the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (July 2000)
- To ensure that 'Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is an important part of PSHE education' (Guidance – PSHE education, DfE, 2013).
- To offer a curriculum (National Curriculum in England, DfE, 2013) which is balanced and broadly based and which:
  - promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
  - prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

### 2. KEY REQUIREMENTS

Statutory requirements and guidance are set out in *Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000)* which states that:

- secondary schools should link SRE with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol;
- secondary pupils should learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity and about obtaining appropriate advice on sexual health;
- programmes should focus on boys as much as girls;
- policies should be both culturally appropriate and inclusive of all children;
- pupils should be taught about the nature and importance of marriage for family life, but that the Government recognises that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside

marriage. Pupils should learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society;

- teachers should be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. There should be no direct promotion of sexual orientation.

Schools have a clear duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that teaching is accessible to all children and young people, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). Inclusive SRE will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice – including homophobia – and promote understanding and respect, enabling schools to meet the requirements, and live the intended spirit, of the Equality Act 2010.

### **3. PROCEDURE**

SRE forms part of the PSHE programme, with the PSHE programme being delivered by the Form Tutor. This programme is supported by external agencies, as well as being covered within the science curriculum. The programme is reinforced by Bromley Healthcare with a health enrichment day for Year 9 and Year 10. Pupils will also be signposted to resources by Form Tutors and subject teachers as and when the need arises. The Police also speak to year groups about relationships, including the dangers of 'sexting' and the taking and distributing of sexual images.

### **4. PARENTS WHO WITHDRAW THEIR CHILDREN**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of SRE, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum.

### **5. MONITORING**

SRE will be monitored and evaluated through year group reviews, feedback from year group councils, questionnaires and through dialogue with pupils and parents. HoY will monitor the programme and liaise with the School Nurse to ensure that the programme is current and meets the needs of our community.

### **6. CONFIDENTIALITY AND SAFEGUARDING**

The classroom is never a confidential place to talk, and that remains true in SRE. Pupils must be reminded that lessons are not a place to discuss their personal experiences and issues – or to ask others to do so – through the establishment of ground rules or a working agreement.

Pupils will be kept informed about how any information they have disclosed will be treated by the school, and who will have access to it. Pupils will also be encouraged to involve their parents/carers if appropriate.

## **7. Outside Agencies**

The following agencies are used to assist with the delivery of SRE:

- The School Nurse
- Bromley Healthcare
- The Police
- A range of other relevant experts

The content of their delivery is always monitored by the teachers involved.