



## **Policy on Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE is a module of Social, Personal and Health Education)**

### **Policy in the context of the ethos of the School:**

The King's Hospital's aim to educate the whole person accords with the aims of the Relationships and Sexuality (RSE) module of the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) programme of the Department of Education and Skills.

The School recognizes the constitutional position of the parents as the primary educators in this field and endeavours to support them. As a school with a Church of Ireland tradition, The King's Hospital upholds Christian values while maintaining tradition, which encourages open expression of ideas; values differences of opinion; and respects the values of those of other denominations and faiths. Sensitive issues are approached in a spirit of openness, which treats conscientiously held beliefs with consideration and respect.

### **The King's Hospital RSE policy aims to enable all pupils to:**

- Understand the importance of, and to develop healthy relationships with others
- Acquire social and interpersonal skills which will enable them to relate easily and co-operatively with others, with confidence and thoughtfulness
- Recognize the importance of a healthy lifestyle
- Have access to personal guidance and to a supportive structure of pastoral care
- Promote an understanding of and a positive attitude to one's own sexuality and in one's relationships with others
- Promote knowledge and respect for reproduction
- Enable our students to develop attitudes and values towards their sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework

## **Aims of the RSE programme in The King's Hospital**

While the aims of the school as a whole are outlined above, the specific aims of the RSE course are to:

- Promote self-esteem
- Explore qualities valued in friendships
- Outline the changes in adolescence (including physical, emotional and psychological)
- Enhance awareness of attitudes and behavior toward others
- Help pupils differentiate between types of relationships
- Recognize the need for respect for everyone's sexuality
- Enable students to identify rights and responsibilities in a relationship
- Explore the role of peer pressure and other influences in the area of sexuality
- Identify skills for making decisions about behavior in relationships
- Enable pupils to identify steps of personal security
- Enable pupils to identify sources of possible conflict in relationships
- Raise awareness about sexually transmitted diseases

## **Delivery of the Relationship and Sexuality programme**

The programme is best delivered through a whole-school approach. The RSE programme both in formal Social, Personal and Health Education classes but also by other class teachers; with Religious Education, Life Skills, Home Economics, Science classes and Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE).

The programme extends from Form 1 to Form 6 with topics revisited in different years as the pupils develop emotionally, physically and socially. Leaving Certificate Foundation Year provides the opportunity for in-depth discussion and learning.

Morning Assemblies, Chapel services and talks by visiting speakers provide other opportunities to develop the programme. Special account is taken of current issues both within and without the school. The Headmaster, the Deputy Head, the Assistant Heads, the Chaplain, the Housepersons, the Guidance counsellors, school counsellor and the

Duty Staff all have pastoral roles which contribute to the programme. In addition, the school Medical Officer and the Nursing staff have significant role in the programme.

- a) All Form 1 students have a designated tutor. They meet every morning along with their class mentors who are also responsible for looking after the pupils' welfare
- b) Themed weeks that make specific reference to aspects of the RSE course include 'Bullying Awareness Week', 'Internet Safety Week' and 'LGBT + Awareness Week'

### **Confidentiality:**

Student confidentiality is an essential part of the successful delivery of the RSE programme. Such confidentiality is ensured except where a child protection issue arises.

Should a child protection issue arise, all teachers and the Pastoral Care Team are obliged to forward these concerns to the school's Designated Liaison Person. This is in accordance with the Child Protection Guidelines.

### **Review:**

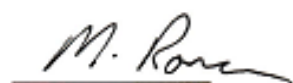
This policy will be monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure that the teaching of RSE in The King's Hospital meets best practice at all times. It will also take account of existing and emerging legislation as this arises.

Board of Management

The King's Hospital

Monday February 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

Signature



Headmaster

28/2/19

Signature



Chairman of the Board