



Hummingbird Learning Lab RSE (RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION) POLICY

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Subject Content

At HHL, we are committed to ensuring the wellbeing of all our students with regards to positive and healthy relationships and sex education. 'Relationships' is a compulsory subject in Primary school. 'Sex Education' is compulsory from Secondary school. It is commonly taught predominately through Personal, Social and Health Education. At HLL, we see great value in informing and empowering our pupils in a subject that is, in many ways, so prominent in our modern day world. Not only does it inform and teach children the importance of personal boundaries and respect for others, in more serious contexts it gives children the ability to recognise, identify and report forms of abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

Our programme will be tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the students. We will create smaller focus groups to cover certain topics if deemed appropriate.

In accordance with DFE recommendations, our main focus will be on positive relationships with particular reference to family relationships, friendships, and relationships with other children and with adults. We will also facilitate learning about the human body using anatomically correct names for the main external body parts; ageing from birth to old age (which includes puberty); and plant and animal reproduction.

Parental Consent

Our Relationships and Sex Education sessions will be available for parents and carers to read before these sessions are taught; which gives them the opportunity to voice their opinions and/or concerns about the content being taught. Parents and carers will have the option to remove their child from a particular topic in the Relationships and Sex Education programme if they wish. This option will be available up until Secondary education, when it will then be compulsory.

Parent Education

Our Relationships and Sex Education sessions will be available for parents and carers to read before these sessions are taught. Also before these sessions are taught, parents/guardians will be offered the opportunity to attend a school-facilitated session to enhance their skills and knowledge about how they can support their child's development in the area of relationships and sex education

Peer-on-Peer Relations/ Abuse

We strive to create an environment where children feel safe to attend, and where teaching staff are aware and fully equipped to notice and deal with peer-on-peer abuse. To help promote and support this we:

- See this as a whole school approach; which involves open and effective communication from all staff members, pupils and their parents.
- Provide an effective RSE education that informs and empowers pupils to identify and report any concerns or events.
- Create and build supportive, caring relationships with the students to allow them to feel safe enough to make a disclosure.
- Create an environment that is centred around respect for others' physical and emotional boundaries.
- Support children to have a good understanding of consent and healthy relationships through modelling.
- Provide immediate support for victims of abuse.
- Provide training for teaching staff to help them recognise the signs of abuse.

LGBTQ+ Inclusivity

It is essential that we promote healthy, inclusive and respectful representations of how different relationships look and use positive language surrounding the sexual orientation of others. This inclusive practice is also reflected through our reading materials, visitors we invite into the school, topics and historical figures studied, focussed conversations we have during group times, and informal chats we have during the day.

Off-Site Experiences and Visitors

When the children go off site for a visit/ trip, or we invite an outside professional into the school, it is essential that a qualified member of staff is present at all times. The children will never be left unattended with an external adult, this includes focus groups, toileting, changing etc.

Risk assessments for all public outdoor learning activities and trips will be carried out, which includes being aware of and notifying children about the possibility of members of the public being in and around our space. This is to be monitored by a qualified member of staff and any interactions with the public are overseen by the teacher.

We will always obtain parental consent for all trips and provide detailed information on activities and safety measures.

Cyber Safety

Cyber bullying is a growing issue for children. To ensure we do all we can to help reduce this, we educate and support children in being able to identify and manage any cyber bullying they may be experiencing. Any school based technology will have controls to prevent children from accessing certain social media sites and inappropriate content.

Incident Reporting and Communication

Communication with the school's DSL is essential in supporting and dealing with any peer-on-peer abuse concerns, observations or allegations. The DSL will then work in conjunction with the teacher and/or the student, and the parents/carers and the local authority (when appropriate) to help support and deal with the abuse as quickly, effectively and sensitively as possible.

We will maintain a system for reporting and recording accidents and incidents, with regular reviews to identify trends and prevent future occurrences.

We will adhere to the standards of the Ofsted register to report all necessary incidents in accordance with their regulations.