

# RELATIONSHIP & SEX EDUCATION POLICY

## Prior Park College

<b>Policy Owner</b> DSL & PSHCE Coordinator	<b>Applies to</b> Prior Park College (PPC)	<b>Superseded documents</b>
<b>Associated documents</b> PSHCE Departmental handbook Equal Opportunity Policy Curriculum Policy	<b>Review frequency</b> Every two years (unless the legislation/regulations update before this time)  <b>Implementation date</b> 1 March 2020	<b>Legal Framework</b> Equalities Act 2010 KCSIE 2019 Relationship & Sex Education Guidance DfE 2019

## 1. Introduction

Prior Park Schools (PPS) comprises three schools. Two of those schools, Prior Park College and The Paragon School are incorporated in England as Prior Park Educational Trust Ltd. The third school, Prior Park School Gibraltar, is incorporated in Gibraltar as Prior Park School Ltd. Both are companies limited by guarantee and registered charities.

Prior Park College is a community built on Christian values, with emphasis on mutual respect, co-operation, and use of talents. The school promotes a policy of positive teaching, seeking to foster and reward constructive Student contribution. Our aim is to create a positive atmosphere that fosters achievement and the happiness of all members of the community. We aim to reward endeavour and success, stressing the benefits of positive behaviour, and will counter misbehaviour to safeguard the community and the individual.

This policy is intended to give clarity about our expectations and to promote the welfare of all Students and to protect them from discrimination and harassment (whether this is based on race, gender, disability, nationality, culture, religion, sexual orientation or other factors). We aim to promote tolerance and acceptance of the diversity essential to a successful community. We aim to promote attitudes that will allow people to function well in the school and in the wider community. This is supported by work in Houses, in Tutor groups, through taught PSCHE and through school and sectional assemblies, all seeking to foster positive and thoughtful behaviour.

## 2. Relationship and Sex Education

It is vital that at Prior Park College we prepare all of our students for life in modern Britain. Our school, along with our parents and guardians, has a critical role to play in helping to shape rounded, resilient young people that can face the challenges of the modern world with confidence, whilst ensuring they have an appreciation of Catholic moral and spiritual teachings to complement their studies in Theology and their own spiritual journeys. The approach seeks to ensure that all our young people are able to discuss some of life's most sensitive issues, understand the importance of their own mental health and others, whilst building resilience and other vital life skills.

Key Christian values that underpin our PSHCE curriculum include the following:

- A strong belief that all are made by God and in the image of God.
- A desire to recognise the worth and inherent dignity of all human beings.
- A deep-seated respect for self and others as the foundation upon which all relationships are built.

### Intention

Good PSHCE education which delivers age appropriate Relationship and Sex education (RSE) will provide our young people with both the knowledge and skills to manage their lives, stay safe, make the right decisions and thrive as individuals and members of society.

We hope to empower them spiritually and emotionally to consider the impact that such actions will have on their future lives. Good RSE never seeks to promote promiscuity or sexual behaviour but seeks to promote respect, love and understanding as well as challenge misconceptions.

The main outcomes of the programme, as set out by the Diocese of Clifton are:

- To address the needs and concerns of students in the area of sexuality so that they might grow spirituality and morally and recognise that they are loved by God;
- To facilitate in the students the development of self-love and self-worth as creatures made in the image and likeness of God;
- To develop an understanding of the emotional, moral, spiritual, social and personal aspects of human sexuality;
- To enable students to consider critically the values of the modern world with regard to human sexuality;
- To impart full knowledge and understanding of the details of puberty and human procreation in their physical as well as emotional, spiritual and moral aspects: to be aware of their attitudes and values and have a sense of responsibility for themselves and others;
- To consider issues associated with sexuality such as contraception and abortion; to enable students to understand the Church teaching in this area and to be able to articulate and critically evaluate their own views in the light of such teaching;
- To give knowledge of all sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS;
- To enable students to discern and make choices in the light of the teaching of the Church;
- To enable students to understand Marriage as a sign of God's covenant relationship with us;
- To bring about a deeper appreciation of the importance and values of the family life, while appreciating the varied forms the family can take in the modern world;
- To be aware of the joys, problems, and difficulties in marriage, such as adultery and divorce;
- To consider sexuality and gender.

## **Content**

Our RSE programme at Prior Park College is holistic and is taught not only in PSHCE lessons, but in Biology, Theology and in other contexts across the curriculum as and when such themes arise. It will also be taught in designated pastoral time for the upper and lower sixth (for example during General Studies and Prior 4 Life). It will also form part of dedicated enhancement events or during specialist lectures. It will draw upon the statutory government guidance on Relationships and Sex Education in schools ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) as well as the guidance set out by the Diocese of Clifton. *More information can be found in our course overview and the PSHCE Departmental handbook.*

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

It is clear that the best Relationship and Sex education comes from the home and we encourage parents to actively engage in conversations with their children as and when questions or concerns arise. Parental support and input is an invaluable tool and must not be underestimated. We would also encourage parents to familiarise themselves with the content of our RSE programme to enable them to be prepared for such questions and discussions. For our boarding community house parents and tutors are able to offer pastoral support for students as and when it is needed. It is the school's responsibility to ensure that all teachers delivering RSE are adequately trained. Such training may form part of dedicated CPD time or specialist workshops.

## **Confidentiality**

Students are informed that 100% confidentiality cannot be assured. For suspected Child Protection concerns the relevant school procedures are followed.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Our governors have the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the RSE programme we deliver, in consultation with teaching staff, the chaplain, parents and the Diocese of Clifton, is age appropriate and in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church and the ethos of our school. Governors will ensure that the resources and programme are monitored periodically. Teachers, the PSHCE Co-coordinator, deputy head pastoral and the Head teacher will undertake informal evaluation of the programme. The policy will be reviewed bi-annually, unless a more immediate review is needed in response to any new guidance or school-wide concerns. Student feedback on the programme will be taken regularly and the PSHCE coordinator will also liaise closely with staff delivering the programme to assess the effectiveness of lessons and resources. The programme will periodically be altered and amended in light of such feedback.

## **Right of withdrawal**

Parents have a right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE but these must be done in advance of specific lessons. Before granting any such request the Headteacher will meet with parents to discuss their request, to listen to their concerns or objections and will set out the benefits any detrimental effects which may come from withdrawing a child from this part of their PSHCE education. Detrimental effects of removal from RSE may include:

- Any social and emotional effects of being excluded.
- A child hearing their peers' version of what was being taught in class and the spread of misinformation.

Such effects may be mitigated if the parents propose to deliver relationships and sex education at home.

Parents with concerns are invited, in the first instance, to arrange an appointment with the Deputy Head Pastoral to discuss these concerns to see if they can be resolved.

## **Dissemination of the Policy**

Parents will be supplied with a fully copy on request. The policy will be presented to all staff and governors.

## **Equal Opportunities/Inclusivity**

The schools RSE policy and programme will reflect the ethos of the school, by providing a secure, non-judgmental environment in which to learn. All students will be treated equally regardless of gender, race, disability or social background in line with the Equalities Act of 2010