

## **Article 17: I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it is safe**

**ICKNIELD SCHOOL**...a happy school where everyone is valued for who they are.

*Icknield School is passionate about providing an inclusive education. We value all students as unique and nurture their talents. We enable students to achieve to their best ability in a safe environment and to grow into the finest individuals they can be.*

*Our inclusive practice can be defined as attitudes, approaches and strategies taken to ensure that all our pupils are included in the learning environment. We ensure that all pupils are listened to, openly valued, safe and have the confidence to participate in all activities.*

*Icknield School strives to remove barriers to learning, to celebrate diversity and through this we encourage and support a society of equality, acceptance and mutual respect.*

*By valuing and respecting human diversity, Icknield School fosters a sense of community and belonging, enabling all: children, teenagers and adults, to participate in every area of life possible.*

### **POLICY ON RELATIONSHIPS, HEALTH AND SEX EDUCATION**

**When planning RSHE please note the sections of this policy particularly relating to informing parents.**

#### **Rationale**

RSHE is a life-long process of acquiring information and forming attitudes, beliefs and values about health, independence, sexual identity, relationships and intimacy. Our pupils need to develop a deeper understanding about themselves and about respecting and valuing others. They need to have an understanding of the importance of appropriate social interaction and the crucial differences between private and public behaviour. Through our RSHE teaching and policy we aim to enable our children to make informed choices and decisions, encourage individual responsibility and to help them build up a system of values. At all times, Staff will be sensitive to the pupil's stage of development and level of understanding and the wishes of the parent. We believe that underpinning this policy is a philosophy that each of us feels valued for what we are and of our worth to others. Our overriding aim is to give our pupils the skills to form relationships with dignity, assertiveness and self-esteem.

#### **Aims:**

The school believes that Relationships, Sex and Health Education is an entitlement of all pupils and is an integral part of their preparation for adult life. It is also believed that basic rights can be ensured by the delivery of Sex Education within the wider context of an 'Interpersonal Skills' programme. At Icknield School we believe that it is important to tailor the curriculum to all pupils and not restrict the content offered.

We believe that a well structured and well taught programme will protect, enable and empower our students and help them to make informed choices in all aspects of their lives, including matters relating to their sexuality.

Sex and Relationship Education aspects of the curriculum will be taught at the appropriate level for individual pupils with regard to their understanding of concepts and stage of development.

## **Icknield School aims:**

- to provide factual information on sexual matters at a level appropriate to each individual student's cognitive level
- to ensure that students understand the changes that will happen to their bodies (puberty) before this happens
- to provide support for the pupil/student in relation to their physical and emotional development and thus guide them to an increased awareness of their bodies and their sexuality
- to increase awareness of personal responsibility and provide information enabling pupils to make informed decisions
- to increase awareness of appropriate social behaviour and ensure the right to dignity and privacy
- to understand that consent may be given or withdrawn with regard to personal care or sexual contact
- to enable our pupils to develop an understanding of the nature of personal relationships, love and family responsibilities
- to enable our pupils to have safe, healthy and satisfying relationships
- to enhance the development of self-respect, personal autonomy and a genuine concern for the well-being of others
- to encourage responsible and appropriate behaviour and develop an understanding of the consequences of inappropriate and irresponsible behaviour
- to learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse
- to provide accurate information about the social, emotional and physical aspects of human sexual behaviour
- to be sensitive to the personal values, needs and beliefs of individual pupils and their families
- to foster a positive notion of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development, including how to look after physical and mental health (not just their own, but others too) and how to seek help if needed

## **Content:**

Pupils/students will develop awareness of themselves and others through work developing awareness and skills relating to :

- Self-Awareness
- Self-care, Support and Safety
- Managing Feelings
- Changing and Growing
- Healthy Lifestyles
- The World I Live In

The use of a spiral curriculum ensures that the same themes are taught each year, with students being able to build upon previous learning and increase their knowledge step by step.

### **Organisation:**

RSHE at Icknield School and at the FE Centre will take place within discrete lessons at least once a week and within daily interactions with students where appropriate. We believe that our students will learn about the concepts in the curriculum throughout the school day and teachers will highlight these opportunities wherever possible.

The Yearly Plan (Appendix 1) shows the topics and learning objectives to be covered by Lower School, Upper School and FE. Teachers are able to teach to the step within the spiral that links to a student's current level of understanding. Pupils in Drum Class will access RSHE through the EYFS framework (Please see Appendix 2).

### **Teaching Approaches:**

A range of approaches will be employed to ensure that skills are acquired and understanding is developed. Group work as well as 1:1 teaching will be employed. When used, visiting speakers will always be accompanied by a teacher. All resources used will be aligned to the teaching requirements and lesson objectives and will be from credible sources.

An agreed vocabulary will be used in lessons and all teachers/school staff will use the correct terms when naming all body parts.

Parents are welcome to view resources by arrangement with the class teacher.

### **Confidentiality and Advice**

- Students will be made aware that some information cannot be kept confidential and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made, certain actions will ensue. At the same time students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support
- In circumstances where students confide personal matters to staff i.e. pregnancy, school will always encourage the student to talk to their parent/guardian. School will offer a member of staff to accompany the student whilst discussing this with parents

### **Relationships**

When relationships between students occur, staff at the school will be available to provide support and advice where appropriate. It is acknowledged that the support and guidance of parents will be essential if relationships are to develop. Students will be reminded that the school and FE are public places and not suitable for private behaviour of a sexual nature.

## **Family Life:**

Pupils will be introduced to this subject as they progress through the school at times appropriate to their needs and development. The moral aspects of this are subjective in nature, and are more fully covered under the scope of RSHE.

## **IMPORTANT**

### **Parental Partnership:**

Under the Education Act of 1993 parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex Education programme (except those aspects included in the Science National Curriculum) up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

In order to develop a more comprehensive sex education for our pupils it is recognised that parents and school should work together.

Advice on RSHE work, relating to Sex and Relationship Education to be sent home at the beginning of each half term in the form of a letter on DOJO, to enable parents and school to work closely for the benefits of the pupils/students. This will enable parents to respond to any questions.

Any concerns that parents may have can be discussed with teaching staff. A male/female member of staff can be requested. A letter to the Headteacher is required to withdraw from Sex and Relationship Education lessons. Once a student has been withdrawn (s)he cannot take part in later Sex and Relationship Education lessons without parental approval.

Students withdrawn from Sex and Relationship Education will be set alternative work to be completed under supervision elsewhere in the school.

### **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaint about the Sex and Relationship Education Curriculum should be made to the Headteacher who will report to the Governors if appropriate.

### **Monitoring and Review:**

Sex and Relationship Education will be monitored by the governing body  
The policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher.

### **Dissemination of the Policy:**

The policy will be made available to all parents when their child enters the school.

Schemes of work/curriculum documents are available to parents for inspection via the class teachers.

**Approved: Sean Cannon**

**Date: November 2023**

**Date to be reviewed: November 2026**

**DRAFT**