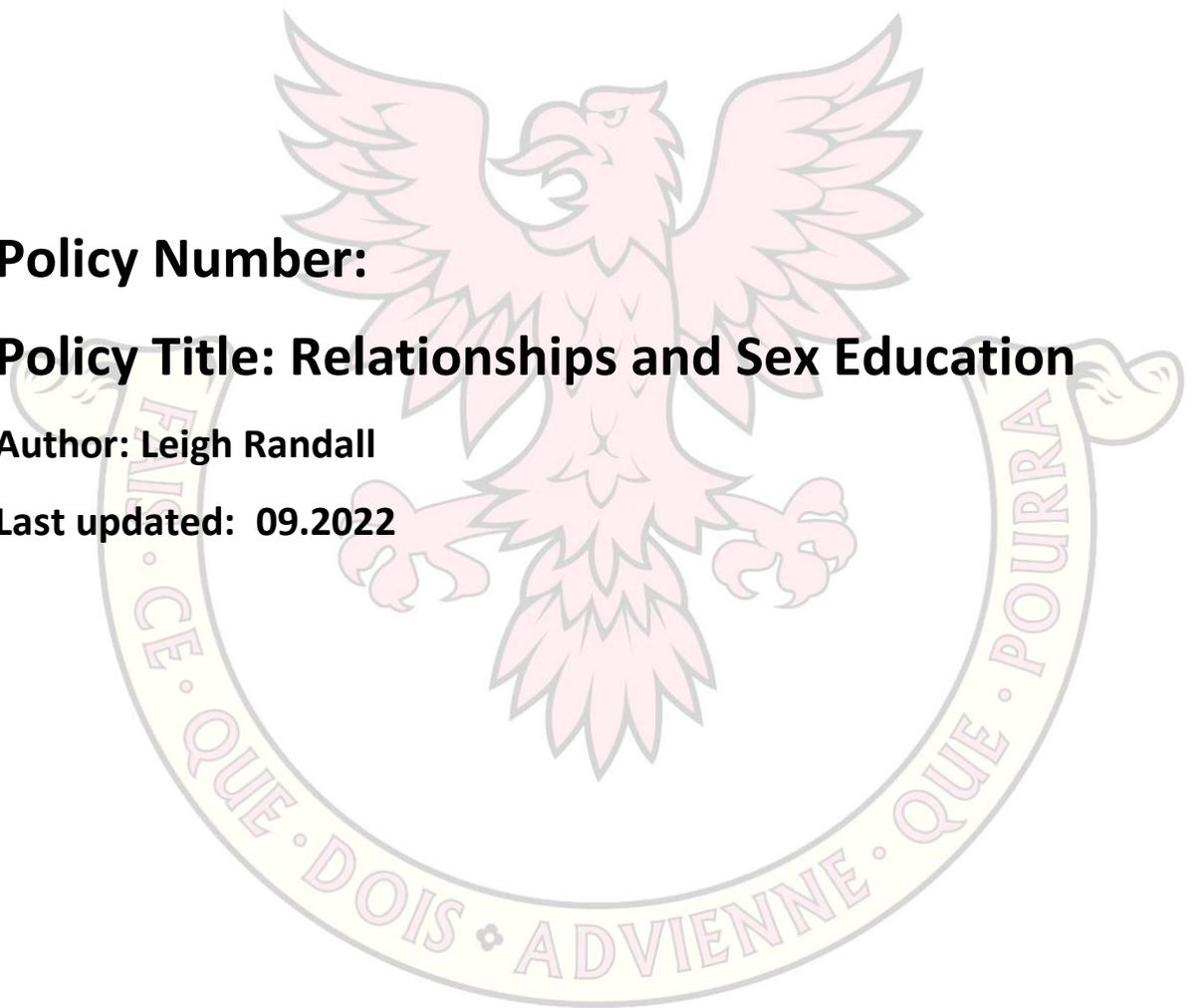


Policy Number:

Policy Title: Relationships and Sex Education

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**Relationships and Sex Education Policy:
The Whole School Policy including EYFS and Boarding**

Since September 2020, Relationships Education has been compulsory for all primary-aged children - ie children from Reception to Year 6 - and Relationships and Sex Education has been compulsory for all secondary-aged children (Years 7 and 8 at Hall Grove, continuing into Senior School). This Policy takes account of the requirements of the DfE Guidance in the context of Hall Grove and its pupils. It should be read in the context of our PSHE programme "The Journey" and alongside the Online Safety Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The Policy complies with the requirements of the Statutory Guidance and parents have been consulted in relationship to the development and review of the Policy. The Head of PSHE will monitor and evaluate the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education, and the Senior Management Team will review this Policy periodically to ensure it meets the needs of our pupils and their families.

1. AIMS OF THE POLICY

- 1.1 Children today are growing up in an increasingly complex world, exposed to information and misinformation in the media and online in a way that previous generations perhaps were not. Children need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. Hall Grove aims to meet the needs of all pupils through the provision of a balanced, comprehensive and coordinated curriculum, within which teaching about relationships can occur. We take a whole-school approach to supporting pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school. Teaching takes place across the curriculum, but primarily in Science lessons, through the PSHE programme and through the discussion of moral and ethical issues across the curriculum, and is tailored to the needs and stage of development of the children.
- 1.2 We recognise that parents are the key people in helping their children cope with the

emotional and physical aspects of growing up within the culture and ethos of their family unit, teaching their children about relationships and sex and preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities of being an adult. At Hall Grove, we believe that it is our role to complement and reinforce what pupils learn at home, rather than usurp parental responsibility in these matters.

1.3 Hall Grove is committed to the provision of Relationships and Sex Education to all of its pupils. We aim to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds and we comply with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. We take account of the SEND Code of Practice and our SEND Policy; resources and teaching are adapted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.

1.4 The content of the Relationships and Sex Education programme at Hall Grove is monitored and evaluated by the Head of PSHE in the first instance in consultation with the Safeguarding team, the Head of Pastoral, Deputy Head and the Headmaster when appropriate.

2. HOW WE DELIVER RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

2.1 The Department for Education define it as

"lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching".

2.2 It is therefore closely interlinked with PSHE as well as Science. Pupils need to be given accurate information and to be helped to develop skills to enable them to understand

difference and respect themselves, as well as for the purpose of preventing and removing prejudice.

2.3 The majority of our pupils are of primary school age and will receive Relationships and Health Education. The focus at this stage is on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and who the people are who can support them. Online Safety is taught as part of the overall PSHE programme and Computing lessons. The ability to form positive relationships is enabled through the development of character traits and positive personal attributes, such as self-belief, determination, resilience, honesty, kindness and integrity. Pupils are also taught about emotional and mental wellbeing and are given the knowledge they need to recognise and to report abuse.

2.4 In Pre Prep, children are likely to learn about friendships, family relationships, respect for boundaries in play, taking turns and sharing, changes as they grow from babies and privacy. In Years 3 to 6, children will gradually learn about matters such as families and commitment, caring friendships, respect for themselves and for others, being safe both online and in the real world, how to recognise unhealthy relationships and to seek advice, reproduction in Science and puberty. Tolerance, differences, moral and social considerations, and values are shared.

2.5 It may be that primary-aged children will ask questions as a consequence of matters discussed in Relationships Education. Children's natural curiosity will be addressed and will often direct discussion. As long as discussion takes place within the context of the subject it will not be considered part of the RSE programme and therefore not subject to any parental right of withdrawal. In some cases, a child may make a disclosure which alerts

us to the possibility of a safeguarding or child protection issue. This will be dealt with sensitively and in accordance with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

2.6 Although Sex Education is not compulsory for primary-aged children, the government recommends that schools teach Sex Education at this age in order to support pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development. In Year 6, pupils are taught about puberty and the changes that adolescence brings, such as periods and other physical changes, so that the children are prepared for the next stage of their development. This takes account of the age and maturity of the pupils. Parents will be told when Sex Education is to be delivered and do have the right to withdraw their child (other than from matters covered in Science which are a part of the National Curriculum) after following the procedure in this Policy.

2.7 Pupils in Years 7 and 8 will receive Relationships and Sex Education as they are of secondary school age, although this will still reflect their age and stage of development. Further Relationships and Sex Education will be provided by Senior Schools as they proceed. Our aim at Hall Grove is to give pupils the information they need to develop healthy relationships of all kinds as well as to prepare them for the physical changes of puberty. Where appropriate, girls may receive separate lessons with a female member of staff. Online Safety is taught as part of the overall PSHE programme. The ability to form positive relationships is enabled through the development of character traits and positive personal attributes, such as self-belief, determination, resilience, honesty, kindness and integrity. Pupils are also taught about emotional and mental wellbeing and are given the knowledge of how to report any concerns. They are taught that unhealthy relationships can have a lasting, negative impact on mental wellbeing. Pupils are made aware of relevant legal provisions when topics are being taught, such as consent and the law,

grooming and the like. In Year 8, we invite a guest speaker to give an age-appropriate Relationships and Sex Education Workshop and parents have the opportunity to attend the workshop separately in advance and ask questions about the content.

2.8 The focus of Health Education is on teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing, including the benefits and importance of daily exercise, good nutrition and sufficient sleep. At Hall Grove, we are fortunate to have the facilities to provide opportunities for regular sport and exercise and we seek to engender an understanding of its benefits in all our pupils. Our teaching aims to provide pupils with information and language to enable them to understand the range of emotions they may experience, to articulate how they are feeling and assess for themselves whether their feelings and behaviours are appropriate and proportionate. The negative impact of poor health and wellbeing is discussed issues such as isolation, unhappiness and bullying. Health Education also includes simple self-care techniques, personal hygiene, prevention of health and wellbeing problems and basic first aid. In Year 7 and 8, pupils receive first aid training from the School Nurse. There is also emphasis on the importance of rationing time on devices and of taking part in activities, hobbies and other interests. The Co-Curricular and Extended Day Programme at Hall Grove offers a wide range of activities which may spark a lifelong interest.

2.9 Relationships and Sex Education is coordinated by the Head of PSHE and delivered through the Science curriculum, the PSHE programme and through the discussion of moral and ethical issues across the curriculum, tailored to the needs and stage of development of the children. Resources, such as the NSPCC's PANTS film, will be used where appropriate to enhance learning. We sometimes ask guest speakers, including the NSPCC, to talk to the children about topics such as online safety, who to tell and health issues such as puberty and relationships.

3. RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

- 3.1 There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education. It is therefore expected that all pupils up to Year 6 will receive Relationships and Health Education.
- 3.2 Parents do have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the Sex Education delivered as part of the statutory Relationships and Sex Education programme except for those parts included in the Science national curriculum syllabus.
- 3.3 Parents who wish to make such a request should state their request in writing to the Headteacher. Parents will then be invited into School to discuss the request so that their wishes are fully understood. It will also be an opportunity for us to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum as well as the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on their child eg. the emotional and social effects of not taking part as well as the likelihood of the child receiving their peers' version of what was learned in class rather than what was delivered by the teacher. Any specific SEND needs of the child will be taken into account.
- 3.4 Once that discussion has taken place, unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will respect parents' wishes to withdraw their child from the sex education aspect of Relationships and Sex Education. A request to withdraw from Sex Education (other than material included in the Science national curriculum) relating to a child in Year 6 (or below) will be granted.
- 3.5 Parents should make a request to withdraw annually for consideration.
- 3.6 If a pupil is excused from sex education, they will be provided with other work to do.

4. REVIEW

This policy will next be reviewed in September 2022 following consultation with parents.

September 2022

LR/SB

