



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT

Title: Personal, Social, Health Education Policy

Policy Category	Pastoral
Status	Final
Current Author	HD
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Frequency of Review	2 years
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Application	Senior School
Responsibility	Claire Losse

PSHE policy

Context and rationale

This policy has been written in accordance with statutory guidance laid out in [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022](#) and The [Department for Education's guidance on RSE and Health Education](#). This policy was produced by the Head of PSHE **in consultation with pupils from each year group**.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies, all of which can be found on [the school's website](#):

- RSHE
- Safeguarding
- Anti-bullying
- Child-on-child abuse
- E-safety

PSHE is a tailored programme across all year groups, aiming to help pupils develop good character, make wise choices, and foster the skills and attributes they will need for a successful life beyond School. An essential part of a KES education, it is a pupil-led approach that continuously evolves in response to pupil needs. PSHE plays a crucial role in preventative education and aims to support pupils and staff in creating a culture of zero tolerance for sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobia, and sexual violence/harassment. It aims to promote the needs and interests of all pupils irrespective of gender, culture, ability, or personal circumstances. Please refer to our Equal Opportunities Policy for Pupils(available on the [website](#)). PSHE educational is for all pupils, although parents have a right to withdraw their children from those parts of RSE not within the national curriculum science programmes of study (please see right to withdraw in the [RSHE policy](#)).

PSHE supports the School's fulfilment of its obligations under the Prevent Duty, helping to equip children to stay safe online, both in School and outside; teaching children to manage risk, resist pressure, make safer choices and seek help if necessary; promoting fundamental British values to ensure that pupils are taught about diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect and understanding; and teaching citizenship with focus on democracy diversity, mutual respect and managing debate of controversial issues.

How is it delivered?

PSHE is devised and coordinated by the Head of PSHE and delivered by form tutors as part of the academic curriculum for pupils from year 7 to 13. The fortnightly one-hour lesson sometimes makes use of expert visiting speakers and the programme is reinforced in form time and assemblies. Moving away from the standard didactic approach, PSHE equips pupils not just with knowledge but a greater self-awareness, confidence, and resilience. It facilitates the kinds of conversations a family would have, examining how to approach life from a practical and personal perspective, as well as preparing pupils as thoroughly and pragmatically as possible for life at university and beyond.

A safe learning environment to discuss these important topics is vital and all staff have been offered advice on how to establish clear 'ground rules.' We will ensure that where pupils indicate that they may be vulnerable and at risk they will get appropriate support (please refer to our Safeguarding Policy).

PSHE programme

The most important aspect of the PSHE programme is that it is developmental, spiral, and comprehensive. Each year group may well have what appears to be a 'standalone' lesson, but every lesson develops on previous teaching. This enables a spiral programme which starts in year 7 and continues throughout a pupil's time at KES and beyond. For example, in relation to the topic of **online safety** it is clear to see a spiral throughout all year groups (note there are other online safety topics taught that fall into a different spiral like sexting and pornography):

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Talk: online safety, talking to strangers, appropriate use of email...	Two Week Project: Design a 'healthy' social media app	In-game gambling	Your digital footprint	Cookies, echo chambers and online extremism	Speaker - Chris Merritt: <i>Grass roots social media</i>	

The nature of the **online programme** is that PSHE is continually evolving and changing to suit the needs of the pupil body through consulting parents, pupils (via regular feedback and assessment) and staff. For example, since the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent Black Lives Matter movement, new lessons on The British Empire have been added to the curriculum. The murder of Sarah Everard also prompted a review of materials and assemblies.

The following statutory topics are covered in the biology curriculum rather than in PSHE lessons:

- H23. the positive and negative uses of drugs in society including the safe use of prescribed and over the counter medicines; responsible use of antibiotics (all year 10)
- H15. the purpose of blood (all year 9), organ and stem cell donation for individuals and society (all year 10)

Assessment

The Department for Education (DfE) states in the statutory guidance for Relationships, Sex and Health education that "schools should have the same high expectations of the quality of pupils' work in these subjects as for other curriculum areas" Department of Education, (2019) Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. For this reason, the following assessment takes place over the course of the year:

- Pupils are given a chance to reflect on their own learning during each PSHE lesson
- Pupils are given regular opportunities to feedback on their own understanding of topics
- Teachers will gauge learning through ipsative assessment either in each lesson or over the course of a few lessons.
- Teachers will assess pupil's knowledge with two short assessments over the course of the year. They will also provide an effort grade for each pupil twice over the course of the year.