

# Relationships Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

~~2023~~ ~~2024~~

Reviewed by Tom Caston September 2023

Approval by the Board: September 2023

Next review: August 2024

# 1 Introduction

Students at MPW are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly both online and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their personal and social lives in a positive way. RSHE is not about encouraging young people to become sexually active, nor is it about promoting any particular lifestyle or relationship choice. Our RSHE curriculum aims to empower our students to understand their bodies, to reflect on their relationship values and to be able to openly discuss relationships and sex.

Staff who are delivering RSHE education will:

- Ensure that they familiar with the current version of the college's RSHE policy and the latest curriculum requirements in this area.
- Attend and engage in professional development training around RSHE provision.
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## 7 Curriculum Delivery

For all years, the RSHE curriculum will be taught as part of the PSHE curriculum. In Years 10, 11 and 12, the PSHE curriculum consists of weekly timetabled lessons. For Years 13 and 14 the PSHE curriculum is delivered through PHSE Days during the Autumn and Spring term. Lessons are mandatory for all students and attendance is registered.

The curriculum is delivered by a team of tutors, as well as by independent speakers and visitors from external agencies. We believe that external speakers can usefully supplement learning and provide different perspectives. We ensure the external agencies and contributors' input is part of a planned programme which consolidates and grows prior learning. All visitors follow the Safeguarding policies in place when visiting MPW. Classes or groups are always supervised by a member of the teaching 7

It may happen that students approach their RSHE tutor or another member of staff wishing to discuss RSHE matters in confidence. The member of staff should listen to their needs and provide appropriate support. If the issue is such that the member of staff feels they are not able to deal with it by themselves, they should take this concern to Toby Taylor, Head of PSHE, and Jon Slay, the college DSL.

It may be the case that topics that feature in RSHE lessons lead to the disclosure of a child protection issue. If this is the case, the college's Safeguarding Policy should be followed. Personal information about students who have approached a member of staff for discussion must not be shared with any other person. If there is a child protection concern, the information must only be shared with the DSL unless an emergency referral to Children's Services is needed.

If a member of staff is approached by a pupil under 16 who is having, or is contemplating having sexual intercourse, they should:

- Decide whether there is a child protection issue. This may be the case if the member of staff is concerned that there is coercion or abuse involved.
- Remind them that the legal age of consent is 16.
- Encourage the student to talk to their parent(s). Although students may feel that they are more comfortable discussing these matters with a trusted member of staff, it is important that (and important that our students know that) children and their parents have an open and trusting relationship as regards sex and sexual health.
- Ensure that the student is accessing all the contraceptive and sexual health advice available and understands the risks of being sexually active.

Pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable to exploitation and less able to protect themselves from harmful influences. If staff are concerned that this is the case, they should seek support from the DSL to decide what is in the best interest of the student.

## 10 Advice and treatment

Staff who are approached by students concerned about having contracted or possibly contracted a sexually transmitted disease should refer them to the college nurse (01223 301610) or the college doctor (01223 301610).

There is no right to withdraw from relationship education.

### Complaints

Parents who have complaints or concerns regarding the RSHE curriculum should contact the college and follow the school's complaints policy.

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## 13 Monitoring, Evaluation and Assessment

The delivery of PSHE (and RSHE) to years 10 and 11 is monitored by Ana Sobrino Gonzalez (Head of GCSE) and the delivery of PSHE (and RSHE) to years 12, 13 and 14 is monitored by Toby Taylor (PSHE Co-ordinator).

The PSHE Co-ordinator will monitor the planning, teaching and learning of RSHE education regularly. Planning will be monitored termly, and observations of teaching will take place in accordance with our college monitoring cycle. Feedback will be given to tutors. The schemes of work and policy will also be reviewed annually.

We solicit comments from students and parents after each topic is completed. All comments will be considered and those that are considered pertinent will inform the development of the college's RSHE policy and curriculum. Such contributions help us ensure that our curriculum is rich with the most up-to-date and contextual information so that we can best help our students to navigate life outside of the college premises.

All students in Years 10-12 attend weekly PSHE lessons. Throughout each lesson, teaching staff continually assess students existing knowledge and confidence in the areas of

- health and wellbeing;
- relationships; and
- living in the wider world.

A range of assessment strategies are used within lessons, including questioning and discussion, written exercises, questionnaires and quizzes, individual reflection and delivering presentations. There are also end of term online assessments. Each student receives a termly PSHE report which outlines their progress.

This policy will be reviewed by Tom Caston (Principal) annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the MPW Board.

## 14 Linked Policies:

- PSHE Policy
- PSHE Curriculum
- Safeguarding Policy
- Remote Teaching and Learning Policy

## Appendix A: Topics covered in PSHE

### Families

Students should know that there are different types of committed, stable relationships and:

- how these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance

Online and  
media

Students should know

- their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online.
- about online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially

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- how the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV