

# Medina House School

## Sex and Relationships Education

### Policy 2017

*Be the Best that you can be*



School Lane  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 2HS

Tel : 01983 522917

Fax : 01983 526355

e-mail : [admin@medinahouse.iow.sch.uk](mailto:admin@medinahouse.iow.sch.uk)

website : [www.medinahouseschool.co.uk](http://www.medinahouseschool.co.uk)

Date Policy adopted by FGB : \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Matt Atkins

Chair of Governors

Review Date: September 2018

# **Medina House School**

## **POLICY FOR SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION**

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## **POLICY FOR SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE)**

### **1. About Medina House School**

Medina house School teaches children, who have a statement and EHC plan, with varying needs and learning difficulties. Classes are mainly organised according to age. These include three specialist classes providing provision for pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties PMLD and Provision for pupils who need highly structured learning requirements including elements of TEACCH.

### **2. Statutory Responsibility**

The law relating to school-based Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is contained in the 1996 Education Act and the 2000 Learning and Skills Act. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) SRE Guidance (DfES 2000) builds on these legal requirements. This Guidance recommends that SRE is planned and delivered as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship (PSHE/C) curriculum as best practice.

### **3. Purpose of the Policy**

Special schools have a duty to ensure that children with special educational needs and learning difficulties are properly included in SRE. SRE should help all pupils understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make empowered decisions in their lives.

### **4. Aims of the Policy**

The aims of Medina House School's SRE Policy are:

- a. to adopt a whole-school approach to SRE in the curriculum
- b. to ensure that all pupils within the context of the school:
  - develop their self-esteem and sense of self-worth;
  - are able to identify/name parts of the body;
  - can understand/describe how their bodies function;
  - are prepared for puberty;
  - develop confidence in communicating about feelings, friendships and relationships;
  - and are empowered to communicate when they need help and support.

### **5. Content and Delivery**

The school provides SRE education as an integral part of the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum. The Medina House School PSHE/C Policy encourages pupils to:

- develop confidence and make the most of their abilities;
- play an active role in the school and community;
- develop a healthy life-style;
- be aware of safe environments;
- develop positive friendships; and
- respect differences between people
- learn how to communicate and behave around different people.
- Learn how to keep themselves safe and how to seek help if they need it.

As part of PSHE education children will participate in learning about the school's 'Be safe' scheme where they learn the correct responses to different people by using the 'Be Safe' pyramid. In partnership with parents each child will obtain a 'People and Relationship book' which will follow them throughout the school. This will empower them to keep safe and assist them in disclosing to staff if they are subject to abuse. Essential work will be carried out at the start of the year to update people and relationship books as the children move into their new class with new sets of adults. Work on 'be safe scheme' is an integral part of the children's everyday learning and will be used continuously.

Every child, within school, will also have a friendship journal which will enable their key workers to assess where they are currently functioning at and target their area of need. The purpose is to assist children in building positive relationships within school.

Pupils are also offered opportunities to:

- participate in a range of activities;
- be aware of and be involved in the school SEAL curriculum
- feel positive about themselves;
- make informed choices and decisions;
- be empowered;
- take responsibility for their actions;
- seek advice and information; and
- prepare for change in their bodies and in their lives.

#### **6. Involvement of Parents and carers**

Parents attended a 'Be Safe' information session and have been invited to future sessions informing them of updates to the scheme. Parents and helpers to the school are informed of the 'be safe' scheme and are shown the correct responses they should expect from the children. Parents are also asked to send in photos of various family members in order to contribute to the school's people and relationship books.

Letters are sent out to parents informing them of any teaching of SRE before commencement of activities and to encourage them to allow their child to fully participate.

#### **7. Specific Issues Statement**

Medina House School's SRE Policy advocates pupil/student care and protection through the following procedures:

- child protection;
- behaviour;
- bullying;
- health & safety; and
- complaints.

Medina House School also recognises the need for the sensitive handling of any member of the school community who may be infected or affected by HIV and other conditions.

### **8. Confidentiality**

This is a direct link to Appendix I of Medina House School's Child Protection Policy and covers the following areas of concern:

- Pupils/students should be able to share concerns with staff in confidence without fear of being 'told off' or criticised; and
- staff have a professional duty to avoid making an unconditional promise of confidentiality where there is a serious threat to the pupil, to other pupils or where child protection issues arise.

### **9. Links to other policies**

The SRE Policy is closely linked to other Medina House School policies and documents with areas of common concern such as:

- School Improvement Plan;
- PSHE/C Policy;
- Child Protection Policy;
- Single Equality Policy;
- Behaviour Policy;
- Policy on the Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils;
- Health-promotion Policy
- SEAL curriculum
- Communication policy

### **10. Co-ordination of Sex and Relationships Education in Medina House School**

The Senior Leadership Team, School Nurse and designated SRE Governor have the responsibility for ensuring that the elements of SRE are met within Medina House School's curriculum.

The school recognises that staff need specialist support to undertake specific areas of SRE. They will work in conjunction with the Speech and Language Therapy Service, the School Nurse and any other relevant agencies.

### **11. Evaluation**

The SRE Policy statement will be reviewed in accordance with the Medina House School Policy Review Cycle and ongoing SRE legislation.