



# SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

St. Ninian's High School

Scoil Ard Noo Ninian

## DRAFT

*“**Empowering** our students to be self-motivated and confident young people who have **respect** for others and clear **aspiration** for their future success”*

*1. This policy was developed in response to the Isle of Man Sex and Relationship Education policy.*

*Students will continue to have age appropriate Sex and Relationship Education delivered by tutorial teams as part of PSHE provision. This policy is subject to regular review by the member of the Senior Leadership Team with responsibility for pastoral care.*

*2. What Is Sex and Relationship Education?*

*At St Ninian's High School, we believe that SRE is learning about lifelong physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love, care and family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.*

*3. Principles and Values*

*St Ninian's High School believes that SRE should:*

- Be an entitlement for all young people*
- Encourage every student to contribute effectively to our community and aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.*
- Support family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness.*
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.*
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.*
- Recognise that parents have a key role in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the content of programmes.*



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- *Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers.*

*Sex and Relationship Education at St Ninian's High School has three main elements which will be addressed at age appropriate times throughout the students' education:*

*(a) Attitudes and Values*

*Sex and Relationship Education will enable pupils and students to develop an understanding of moral codes and values and their influence on decision-making. They will develop an appreciation of the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, marriage, the nurture of children and the value of respect, love and care. They will also develop an understanding of how their values and beliefs affect them, their families and friends.*

*(b) Personal and Social Skills*

*Students will be encouraged to learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively, to develop self-respect and empathy for others and make choices with an absence of prejudice and appreciation of consequence.*

*(c) Knowledge and Understanding*

*Sex and Relationship Education will address information on how bodies develop and work, sexuality, the law (Manx and UK), sexual reproduction, sexual behaviour, sexual health, emotions and relationships plus the range of sexual health services.*

#### 4. Aims

*The aim of SRE at St. Ninian's High School is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:*



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- *develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.*
- *understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.*
- *avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.*
- *communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.*
- *develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity*
- *understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.*
- *understand the reasons for having protected sex.*
- *have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.*
- *be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary*
- *know how the law applies to sexual relationships.*

### 5. Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education

*St Ninian's High School currently delivers Sex and Relationship Education through its PSHEE Programme, RE and Science lessons at KS3, and KS4..*

*Much of the Sex and Relationship Education at St Ninian's High School takes place within PSHEE lessons. Tutors generally deliver the PSHEE Curriculum with support from professionals where appropriate. Form tutors work closely with their students over a number of years and we believe that they are usually the best people to work with the students on many of the*



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*SRE topics as they are aware of each student's individual circumstances. SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHEE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the Science Department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.*

*The PSHEE Programme and Manx Science Curriculum is currently taught in every year.*

*Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.*

*More expert or specialist teachers support tutors who are uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the curriculum. Support is offered with the year team or from the PSHE co-ordinator who will help with planning or delivery of lessons if required.*

### 6. Inclusion

#### *Ethnic and Cultural Groups*

*We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups however for some young people it may not be culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in mixed groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns in this regard.*

#### *Students with Special Needs*

*We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.*



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### *Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation*

*We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them. We intend to continue to offer a confidential drop-in service for students concerned about LGBT issues through the DESC Support, Advice and Listening Service.*

### *7. Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education*

*Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. As such parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex and Relationship Education programme except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. For parents with concerns, they are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.*

### *8. Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues*

*Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Teachers are not legally bound to inform parents or Headteacher of any disclosure unless the Headteacher has specifically requested them to do so.*

*In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16 year old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:*

- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.*
- child protection issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the teacher responsible for Child Protection under the school's procedures.*
- the young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.*



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*In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first.*

*Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in a one-to-one situation with an individual student, but in a classroom situation they must follow the school's confidentiality policy.*

### 9. *Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education*

*Monitoring of the delivery, content and teaching of SRE will be undertaken by the SLT and Heads of Year and is currently under review.*