



## PSHE Policy

---

### Introduction

At the Beeches Independent Special School, our PSHE (*Personal, Social and Health Education, but also known as Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education*) program follows a curriculum designed to be relevant from age 9 upwards, taking into consideration the fact that primarily many of the students at the Beeches have ASDs.

There are three core themes of PSHE at The Beeches Independent School:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Living in the Wider World: (to incorporate economic wellbeing and being a responsible citizens)

### The Beeches PSHE Curriculum

The aims of our school are reflected in the statement from the Education Reform Act 1988 that the school curriculum should be one which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school
- prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life

The school program is designed around the needs of each learner, incorporating a variety of resources, learning styles, to ensure that barriers presented by their learning and sensory needs, disabilities and complex needs are overcome.

All students have the opportunity gain knowledge, skills and understanding to lead confident, healthy, and independent lives.

Students at the Beeches will learn to recognise that their behaviour can affect other people in school and at home; to listen to other people and work and play cooperatively; to identify special people in their lives (parents, siblings, friends) and how they should care for each other; what physical contact is acceptable; and what to do if they are experiencing bullying.

Students will learn about how to make and follow group, class and school rules; what protects and harms the environment; how to make choices about spending or saving money; ways in which we are all unique and the things we have in common; basic human rights and to respect national, regional, religious and ethnic identities.

Our PSHE curriculum has been developed in consultation with various stakeholders, including school governors, staff, students and parents/carers and takes into account the context of the school and its students.

The topics covered include:

- Families and people who care for us
- Caring friendships and respectful relationships
- Internet safety, safe online relationships and the risks of online relationships
- Mental wellbeing
- Basic first aid, physical health and fitness, health and fitness, healthy eating, risks to health, e.g. drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body
- Sex education

This PSHE curriculum has been planned in the context of our broader curriculum intent, and the delivery of this part of the curriculum is one of the ways in which we seek to realise our vision. It reflects teachings about human beings and healthy relationships, including the belief that all people are treated with dignity and respect. This enables our students to understand that they should value the gift of themselves and recognise and respect this gift in others by seeking out healthy relationships. It will also help them understand a range of views on the importance of long-term relationships as building blocks for family stability.

## **Delivery of PSHE**

PSHE is taught as both a discreet subject and as part of the science and humanities curricula, with students exploring the different religious and cultural views and practices from around the world. The school uses a range of resources and methods to deliver effective PSHE, including, but not limited to, sensory resources, the use of Makaton, scaffolded learning, visual prompts and 1:1 tuition. All staff involved in delivering PSHE receive appropriate training and support. Pupil progress and attainment in PSHE are continually monitored, reflecting the school-wider practice.

## **Delivery of RSHE (Relationships Sex Health Education)**

RSHE is taught as part of the broader PSHE curriculum and in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010, with particular regard to the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the Science Curriculum and some elements of RSHE may be taught within the humanities curriculum, particularly with relation to a range of views on relationships from religions and worldviews. Teaching is delivered by class teachers.

The school uses a range of resources to deliver effective RSHE and all staff involved in delivering RSHE receive appropriate training and support due to the sensitive backgrounds of some of the students. Pupil progress and attainment in RSHE is monitored regularly.

All RSHE is delivered with an understanding that students and staff may be personally engaged in different structures of support and familial relationships, including single parent families, LGBTQ+ families, families headed by grandparents, civil partnership families, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers, young carers, etc. The RSHE curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that no person feels stigmatised; due respect will also be paid to the range of faith and non-faith positions that may be held by some of our students, in line with the Equalities Act 2010.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/4>

## **Statutory Requirements**

We aim to provide Relationships Education to all students as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. We do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are required to offer all students a curriculum that is similar in breadth and depth to the National Curriculum, including requirements to teach science, which would include the elements of sex education contained within the Primary Science Curriculum.

At The Beeches Independent School, we teach PSHE as defined in this policy, adhering to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State as outlined in Section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

## **Parental Right to Withdraw from Sex Education**

Parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education. Elements of sex education are included in the science curriculum and parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from the science curriculum.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science elements of sex education within PSHE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the Head of Education, Emma Sutters. Withdrawing your child from sex education remains a statutory right as a parent or legal guardian.

