BRITANNICA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

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Contents

Aims & Purpose 3

School's Vision for safe and effective RSE 3

Objectives of RSE 3

Roles & Responsibilities 3

Professional Development 4

Child Protection, Safeguarding & Confidentiality Protocols 4

Informing Visitors & External Agencies 4

Aims & Purpose

At Britannica International School, Shanghai, we are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment that empowers students to develop healthy relationships and make informed decisions regarding their sexual health. Our vision is to create well-rounded individuals who respect diversity, practice consent, and navigate the complexities of relationships with integrity.

School's Vision for safe and effective RSE

In line with our commitment to excellence, our vision for safe and effective Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is rooted in the following principles:

1. **Safety First:** We prioritize the safety and well-being of our students. Our RSE programme is designed to create an environment where students feel secure to explore and discuss topics related to relationships and (within appropriate curriculum setting and respecting the mores of Chinese society) sex and reproduction education.
2. **Inclusivity:** We value and celebrate diversity. Our RSE curriculum is inclusive, recognizing and respecting various perspectives, identities, and backgrounds. We strive to ensure that all students see themselves represented and respected in our educational approach.
3. **Empowerment Through Knowledge:** Our RSE programme aims to empower students with age-appropriate knowledge. We believe that informed decision-making is crucial for students to navigate the complexities of relationships and sexual health successfully.
4. **Communication and Consent:** We emphasize the importance of effective communication and consent in all interpersonal relationships. Our vision is to equip students with the skills to communicate openly, establish boundaries, and seek and provide consent respectfully.
5. **Cultural Sensitivity:** Recognizing the cultural diversity within our school community, our RSE programme is designed to be culturally sensitive. We strive to provide information that is relevant and respectful of cultural values and norms and in keeping with Chinese regulations.

Objectives of RSE

1. To equip students with age-appropriate knowledge and understanding of relationships and sexual reproduction.
2. To promote values of respect, inclusivity, and consent in all interpersonal relationships.
3. To empower students to make informed and responsible decisions regarding their health and well-being.
4. To create a positive and supportive culture where students feel comfortable discussing RSE topics with the appropriately trained persons.

Roles & Responsibilities

1. **Principal**
    - The Principal is responsible for advising on, endorsing and supporting the implementation of the RSE policy.
    - The Principal provides leadership to ensure that RSE aligns with the overall vision and values of the school and the cultural expectations of China
    - The Principal oversees the integration of RSE into the broader curriculum.

2. **PSHE Education Lead:**

    - The PSHE Education Lead takes a central role in coordinating and leading the RSE programme.
    - They ensure that RSE content aligns with the school's vision and objectives.
    - The PSHE Education Lead and Head of Primary supports teachers in implementing effective RSE delivery.

3. **Teachers:**

    - Teachers are responsible for delivering RSE content strictly according to the curriculum and policy guidelines.
    - They create a safe and inclusive learning environment for students to explore RSE topics.
    - Teachers play a vital role in facilitating open discussions and addressing student queries related to RSE. **NB** Culturally unacceptable topics will not be discussed.

4. **Counsellors and Nurses:**

    - School counsellors and nurses will assist with advising and contributing to the content of RSE provision to ensure appropriate and up to date information is contained in the lessons.
    - School counsellors and nurses may be asked to deliver, and /or augment provision in certain aspects of the RSE programme as appropriate to lend their expertise.

5. **Parents**

    - Parents are encouraged to engage with the RSE programme and understand its objectives.
    - They are responsible for reinforcing RSE values at home and supporting students in their understanding of relationships.

Professional Development

- Staff will receive ongoing professional development opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills in RSE delivery.
- Workshops, training sessions, and resources will be provided to keep staff informed about best practices and emerging trends in RSE education.
- Continuous learning opportunities will be offered to ensure that staff remains confident and capable in delivering effective RSE content.

Child Protection, Safeguarding & Confidentiality Protocols

- Child protection, safeguarding, and confidentiality protocols are integral to supporting safe and effective RSE practice.
- These protocols ensure that sensitive information is handled with utmost care, respecting the privacy and well-being of all students.

Informing Visitors & External Agencies

- Visitors and external agencies will be informed of safeguarding protocols through orientation sessions and provided with written documentation outlining our school's commitment to safeguarding.

- External agencies will be encouraged to align their practices with our school's whole-school approach to RSE, emphasizing respect for our values and the well-being of our students.

This policy will act as a management tool to inform decision-making processes related to RSE at Britannica International School, Shanghai, ensuring a consistent and effective approach to this vital aspect of education.