

Committee(s)	Dated:
Academic and Personnel Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School	13012020
Subject: Deputy Head's Report on Policies	Public
Report of: Deputy Head, City of London Freeman's School	For Discussion and Decision

Summary

This report is for Governor engagement and decision.

- a) Background
- b) Recommendation

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Scrutinise the policies in this report;
- Ask questions of the policy author (Deputy Head) and Headmaster surrounding this policy;
- Recommend to the Board that it approve the policy presented.

Main Report

a) Background

1. Members will understand that they are responsible for the School's policies and that oversight of them is an important part of their duties.
2. The policy in need of oversight at this meeting is the Relationships and Sex Education Policy, which can be found at **Appendix 1**.
3. This Policy has been re-written in light of the Department for Education (DfE) document [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education \(June 2019\)](#), which comes into effect in September 2020. This, together with it having been some time since the Board of Governors last scrutinised the policy, means that the policy is presented afresh and without amendments having been highlighted.

4. The afore-mentioned DfE document contains statutory guidance on relationships and sex education with which state and independent schools alike must comply. Prior to this, relationships and sex education in independent schools was quality-assured by the Independent Schools Inspectorate under standards relating to PSHE, with schools enjoying considerable latitude in what they taught.
5. In contrast, the new statutory guidance is specific and exacting. To demonstrate the School's compliance with the DfE guidance, the mandatory content is listed (largely verbatim) alongside details of when and how it is delivered. As of January 2020, the School's PSHE programme meets most but not all of the requirements. It is expected that gaps in the School's provision will be closed without difficulty in time for September 2020. In fact, the advent of the DfE guidance has afforded a useful opportunity in the context of one of SLT's 'Big 5' priorities for this academic year, namely the designing of an optimally relevant pastoral curriculum.
6. Governors' attention is drawn to those elements of the Policy where the School is able to exercise discretion, chiefly regarding the provision of sex education for primary-age pupils. Governors should also be aware that, mindful of the advice that RSE should reflect the religious backgrounds of pupils, the School is proposing requesting and recording information on the religious affiliations, if any, of parents.
7. Governors will note the duty of the School to consult parents in developing this Policy; additionally, it ought to reflect the views of teachers and pupils. It is proposed that, once approved by the Full Board, the Policy be disseminated in draft form to parents, pupils and teachers and their comments invited. The Board can be appraised of the feedback at its June meeting, and a decision taken then as to whether or not there is a need for further amendment.

b) Recommendation

FOR DECISION

8. It is recommended that Governors recommend to the Full Board that it approve the Relationships and Sex Education Policy included as an appendix in this report.

Appendix

- Appendix 1: Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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