**Smart Hands Studio – Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education Policy**

**1. Policy Statement**

Smart Hands Studio is committed to supporting the health, wellbeing, and personal development of every child in our care. While we are not a formal education provider and do not deliver a curriculum, we recognise our role in modelling and encouraging respectful relationships, healthy attitudes, and positive behaviour in line with the principles of Relationships and Health Education (as set out in statutory guidance for schools in England).

**2. Purpose of the Policy**

This policy explains how Smart Hands Studio promotes healthy, respectful interactions between children and contributes to their understanding of personal safety and wellbeing. It also sets clear boundaries about what we do *not* provide in the area of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

**3. Scope and Context**

We work with children from age 4 upwards in small, mixed-age woodwork groups. Sessions are practical, creative, and focused on hands-on projects. While we do not deliver formal RSE or Health Education lessons, we recognise that our studio environment can contribute positively to children’s social, emotional, and health development.

**4. Our Approach**

**Promoting Respect and Positive Relationships**

✅ We set clear expectations for respectful behaviour towards peers, staff, and the studio space.
✅ We model and encourage kindness, cooperation, and appropriate communication.
✅ We address instances of unkindness, teasing, or disrespect calmly and constructively, helping children understand the impact of their words and actions.

**Supporting Wellbeing and Health Awareness**

✅ We ensure the studio is a physically safe and emotionally supportive environment.
✅ We encourage children to recognise their own feelings, take breaks when needed, and express concerns to staff.
✅ We foster a culture where diversity and differences are respected, and no child is made to feel excluded based on gender, identity, ability, or background.

**5. Boundaries of Our Role**

* We do *not* deliver formal lessons on relationships, sex, or health education.
* We will not engage in discussions about intimate or sexual matters unless it is necessary to safeguard a child in line with our safeguarding policy.
* If a child raises a sensitive topic, staff will respond age-appropriately, factually, and without judgement — and refer to parents/carers or safeguarding services if appropriate.

**6. Safeguarding Concerns**

Any disclosures, comments, or behaviour that raise concerns about a child’s safety, welfare, or understanding of healthy relationships will be dealt with in line with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Staff are trained to recognise signs of abuse, exploitation, or inappropriate relationships and know how to escalate concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

**7. Parental Partnership**

We encourage open communication with parents/carers about their child’s wellbeing and social development during sessions. If any issues arise related to behaviour or interactions, we will discuss these with parents/carers promptly and sensitively.

**8. Review**

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure it remains appropriate and aligned with current guidance and the needs of the children we work with.

**Signed:**
Charlotte Cala
Date: 16-07-25
Next review date: 16-07-25