



Relationships and sex education (RSE) policy

Independent school standards and other requirements

Paragraphs 2A(1)–2A(2), 2(2)(d) and 5(b)(vi) and The Relationships and Sex Education Regulations 2019 made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

Last updated by senior leaders

August 2023

Last reviewed by advisory board

August 2023

Next review due

August 2024

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE)

As per the latest DfE statutory requirements, policy content includes:

- defining relationships and sex education
- subject content, how and when it is taught
- how the subject is monitored
- information for families.

INTRODUCTION TO RSE

- RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.
- We are absolutely committed to teaching pupils about healthy relationships, mutual respect and equality. We have a zero-tolerance approach to misogynistic 'banter'.
- RSE is one way in which we ensure the curriculum pays regard to all the protected characteristics, including sex, gender re-assignment, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.
- RSE in no way promotes sexual activity.

SUBJECT CONTENT, HOW AND WHEN IT IS TAUGHT

- RSE is taught within the school's personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) curriculum. Some biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum.
- We teach PSHE education at Key Stages 1–2 and PSHCE education at Key Stages 3–4. As part of this subject, Relationships Education (at Key Stages 1–2) and Relationships and Sex Education (at Key Stages 3–4) are taught regularly, each year, progressively building on pupils' prior learning.
- At Key Stages 1–2, Relationships Education is taught by classroom teachers and at Key Stages 3–4, RSE is taught by a qualified and experienced PSHE and Citizenship specialist in 2 curriculum blocks called 'Relationships' although content may also overlap into the other subject areas for example 'Health and Well-being'.
- Some aspects of RSE are also regularly covered in other areas such as assemblies and visiting workshops or events.
- RSE is delivered through a varied range of teaching activities which promote dialogue and understanding, such as circle time, discussion and role play.

We ensure full coverage of the RSE statutory guidance which aims to:

- help pupils develop an understanding of the different types of relationships, including family relationships
- help pupils to develop skills in forming, respecting and maintaining relationships with others, including their peers
- help pupils develop understanding of online relationships, being safe and the media
- teach pupils about the changes to their body that occur during puberty
- teach pupils about reproduction, intimate and sexual relationships, including LGBT+ relationships, sexual health and gender identity (from the senior school onwards for secondary-age pupils).

HOW THE SUBJECT IS MONITORED

- Subject coordinators oversee and monitor RSE as part of PSHE/PSHCE education.
- RSE (as part of PSHCE education) is externally scrutinised by the school's advisory board as part of their regular quality checks.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES, INCLUDING THE 'RIGHT TO WITHDRAW'

- This policy was originally published following a consultation with parents in 2021. It is reviewed annually.
- We always inform families, in advance, of when the RSE programme is being taught and will provide an opportunity for families to view the subject overview. Families can also request the RSE subject overview from a subject coordinator at any time.
- Families have the right to withdraw their child/ren from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Requests for withdrawal should be directed to the Principal or the Head teacher who will discuss the request with families. Once these discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, the school will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child, up to and until three terms before they turn 16. After that point, if the pupil wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, we will make arrangements to provide the pupil with sex education during one of those terms.
- For pupils who are withdrawn from RSE, appropriate alternative work will be given to them. Parents should note that there is no right to withdraw their child/ren from Relationships Education.

PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF

- Teachers are trained to teach RSE and meet on a regular basis with other teachers and coordinators during quality of education CPD meetings.