

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Aims

The aim of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school is to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- To teach the subject in a respectful manner sensitive to our ethos

Policy development*

We have followed current statutory guidance for RSE. This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a staff working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

Definition

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. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out in Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary. We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and do not seek answers online.

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and Citizenship (PSHCE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious studies (RS).

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBTQ parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board has delegated the approval of this policy to the Principal.

The Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way in line with our ethos
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Principal. RSE will be delivered by the PSHCE, Islamic Studies and Science teachers.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Principal.

The Principal will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Principal will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Principal through arrangements such as:

- Scrutinising planning
- learning walks, etc.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the RSE working group annually, the policy will be approved by the Principal.

Date: Sep 2023

Last reviewed on: Sep 2023

Next review due by: July 2024

Appendix I: Curriculum map

Relationships and sex education curriculum map

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION LONG TERM SoW

	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1
YR 11	Being safe	Families	Online and media	Respectful relationships, including friendship	Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health
	<p>O19 Concepts and laws regarding coercion and forced marriage. O18 Concepts and laws regarding FGM. O20 Concepts and laws relating to sexual consent, sexual exploitation, grooming and rape. How to communicate and recognise consent and when consent can be withdrawn. O15 Misinformation, disinformation & cybercrime</p>	<p>O1-O5 Different types of stable relationships, how they can contribute to human happiness. Marriage, legal status, rights and protections that are not available to unmarried couples, why marriage is important and why it must be freely entered into. Characteristics and legal status of other long-term relationships. Roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising children / characteristics of successful parenting. Determining whether people or sources of information are trustworthy and safe. Pregnancy choices, abortion and adoption.</p>	<p>O17 -Criminal consequences of viewing and sharing indecent images of children. O12 Rights, responsibilities and opportunities online. Impact of viewing harmful content. O13 How information and data is collected and shared online. O14 Online risks including consent and sharing material. O16 Impact of viewing sexually explicit material including pornography.</p>	<p>O7 To treat and be treated with respect in school and society and impact of bullying. O8 How stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, disability can cause damage. O6 Positive and healthy friendships and other non-sexual relationships and practical steps to improve respectful relationships. O9 Legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality. O10 Violent and criminal behaviour in relationships including coercive control. O11 Violent and criminal behaviour in relationships, sexual harassment and violence.</p>	<p>O27 Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV, AIDS, STI's and STD's, impact and treatment. O26 Pregnancy facts including miscarriage and contraception. O25 Identifying and managing sexual pressure and choice to delay sex. O28 Alcohol and drugs and their effect on risky sexual behaviour. O24 Characteristics of healthy intimate relationships and how the choices we make in relationships can impact our health positively and negatively. O22 Facts about reproductive health, fertility and menopause. O23 Characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one relationships. O21 Identifying and managing peer pressure</p>

Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That there are different types of committed, stable relationships ● How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children ● What marriage is, including their legal status e.g. that marriage carries legal rights and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony ● Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into ● The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships ● The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting ● How to: determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy: judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe (and to recognise this in others' relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including: trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. This includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship ● Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships ● How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g. how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice) ● That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs ● About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help ● That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control ● What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable ● The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online ● About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online ● Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online • The impact of viewing harmful content • That specifically sexually explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners • That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail • How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships • How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships, which include mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex and friendship • That all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, e.g. physical, emotional, mental, sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing • The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women • That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others • That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex • The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available • The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage • That there are choices in relation to pregnancy (with medically and legally accurate, impartial information on all options, including keeping the baby, adoption, abortion and where to get further help) • How the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing • About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment • How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour

- How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment

Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	