

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy



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Curriculum and Staffing

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1). Purpose of the RSE Policy

All secondary schools are required to teach RSE and to produce an RSE policy.

The purpose of the policy is to:

- Give information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and outside visitors about what is taught in RSE, how it is taught and who teaches it
- Enable parents and carers to support their children in learning about Relationships and Sex Education
- Give a clear statement on what the school aims to achieve from Relationships and Sex Education, the values underpinning it and why it is compulsory for all secondary schools to teach it
- Set out how Relationships and Sex Education meets schools' legal requirements to:
 - promote well being (Children Act 2004)
 - prepare children for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life (Education Act 2006)
 - meet the school's safeguarding obligations
 - comply with the Equality Act 2010 to prevent discrimination
 - advance equality of opportunity
 - foster good relations between different groups
 - make the policy available to all pupils and parents (Education Act 2006)

2). Development of the Policy

This policy was developed by the PSHE Coordinator in consultation with school governors, staff, parents, pupils and outside agencies, including Camden Local Authority.

We have taken account of the

- Statutory guidance on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (DfE June 2019)
- Camden's example policy 2020
- Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Duty

3). Links to other policies

This policy links to the PSHE and citizenship policy, the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, Behaviour policy, Anti-bullying policy, Equality policy and E-Safety/Online Safety policy.

Our provision of RSE is part of our approach to supporting the health and wellbeing of young people in our school and our commitment to being recognised as a healthy school, which was achieved in September 2019.

4). Definition of RSE

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is enabling young people to learn about making and maintaining healthy, happy and respectful relationships, knowing how to recognise unhealthy relationships and being able to seek support, and having the information and skills to be safe online and to take responsibility for their sexual health.

Relationships education is learning about:

- Different relationships (including friendship, family, intimate, marriage/civil partnerships) and how to make and maintain healthy, caring and respectful relationships
- Healthy and unhealthy relationships, including online
- How to recognise when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unhealthy or unsafe and how to seek help and report concerns or abuse
- How to recognise when a relationship is coercive or controlling and know this behaviour is unacceptable and criminal and how to seek help
- Stereotypes and how they can lead to prejudice and discrimination, eg based on gender, race, religion, Special Educational Need (SEN), disability or sexual orientation
- Different types of bullying, the impact it has and how to prevent it, how to get help and how to report it
- The concepts and laws relating to sexual consent, sexual exploitation and sexual violence, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM
- Equality and protected characteristics¹ and the importance of respecting difference
- Gender identity and building a positive sense of gender identity
- How to recognise risk and the negative impact of some online material (including on relationships) and understand what is legal and appropriate to share and the importance of respect for others online and where to get support
- The features of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships
- Managing sexual pressure
- What makes successful parenting and the roles and responsibilities of parents

Sex Education is learning about:

- The choice to delay sex or be intimate without sex
- Pregnancy options, including abortion
- The impact of alcohol and drugs on sexual behaviour
- Where to get confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment

Some of RSE overlaps with the Science curriculum. These include, but are not limited to:

- Reproductive health including fertility and infertility and menopause
- Contraceptive choices
- Pregnancy
- STIs including HIV/AIDS, how they are transmitted, treated and prevented

5). Why teach RSE at secondary schools?

The government has made Relationships and Sex Education a statutory part of the curriculum and we agree that this is a crucial aspect of the secondary curriculum.

Through Relationships Education young people develop the positive values and skills to make and maintain healthy, safe and respectful relationships and to recognise when a relationship, whether in the family, amongst friends or in an intimate relationship is unhealthy or unsafe and where to seek help. They learn the knowledge and skills about what is and is not appropriate and about what is legal and illegal behaviour online and how to be safe online.

¹ Protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010 including religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, sex and maternity

For these reasons parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from Relationships Education.

Through sex education young people learn information that will enable them to take responsibility for their sexual health and reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancy. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from Sex Education, but not from any aspects of the Science Curriculum - see Section 8 in the policy for further details on this.

6). Values promoted through RSE

Our ambition is for every pupil to feel included and supported and to develop healthy, respectful and caring relationships and to have the knowledge and skills to live healthy and safe lives. We are an inclusive school that promotes diversity and equality.

We want all pupils to feel that the content of RSE is relevant to them and their developing sexuality and that they understand the society in which they are living and growing up in, as well as be respectful of others and difference.

We believe that RSE promotes the aims and values of our school which include:

- Respect for self and others
- Kindness and consideration for others
- Commitment, trust and love within relationships
- Promoting equality and respecting rights and responsibilities in relationships
- Respecting difference and diversity, including religion, race, gender identity and sexual orientation
- Preventing prejudice and discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion or belief, gender and gender reassignment (protected characteristics in the Equality Act (2010))
- Promoting gender equality, challenging gender stereotypes and inequality
- Valuing family life and stable, loving and committed relationships, including marriage and civil partnerships, for bringing up children
- Everyone has the right to a healthy and safe relationship

7). Aims for RSE

Our RSE programme aims to help young people:

- Develop the confidence to talk, listen and think about relationships in a positive and supportive environment
- Develop the skills to make and maintain healthy, caring and respectful relationships-friendships, family and intimate relationships
- Recognise unhealthy or unsafe relationships, including in friendships and within the family, with adults they may encounter (including online) and within intimate relationships, and how to seek help
- Manage sexual pressure, including resisting pressure and understand the choice to delay sex or be intimate without sex
- Respect different relationships including heterosexual, gay, lesbian and bisexual
- Challenge and prevent discrimination based on difference e.g. sexual orientation, gender identity, race, SEN and disability

- Recognise and prevent all types of bullying and prejudice-based language including sexist, sexual, homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language and bullying and develop the confidence to report it
- Understand the spectrum of gender identity including transgender and challenge gender stereotypes and inequality and promote equality and respect in relationships
- Recognise risk and how to be safe online and behave appropriately and respectfully
- Know where and how to seek information and advice when they need help
- Understand what affects reproductive health
- Understand what makes successful parenting and the roles and responsibilities of parents
- Understand about pregnancy and the choices available
- Prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections and prevent unplanned pregnancy

Pupils will also be taught about the emotional, social and physical changes at puberty which is a statutory part of Science and Health Education.

8). Content and Organisation of the RSE Programme

Where is RSE taught and what is taught?

RSE will be taught as part of the planned PSHE curriculum in every year group covering knowledge and skills appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils. Each year builds on what has been learnt in the previous years.

Puberty will be taught through Science and PSHE lessons.

The science of immunisations and vaccinations, blood, organ and stem cell donation will be taught in Science lessons.

See Appendix 1 Biological aspects of statutory Science

See Appendix 2 for the requirements for teaching statutory RSE and puberty (in Health Education)

See Appendix 3 PSHE curriculum in each Year

Who teaches RSE?

RSE will be taught by form tutors, supported by the PSHE Coordinator. Aspects of RSE are also covered in other curriculum areas, including (but not limited to) P.E., Science and I.T.

We sometimes involve external agencies to support the teacher-led RSE e.g. sexual health advisers from local sexual health clinics and Theatre in Education plays and workshops.

When visitors are involved in RSE we will:

- plan and evaluate their contribution as part of the school's RSE teaching programme
- provide the visitor with an up-to-date copy of the school's RSE Policy and ensure they adhere to it
- ensure that the class teacher is present throughout the lesson, taking responsibility for class management
- provide follow up lessons

TAs and Learning Mentors support individual pupils to ensure the RSE meets their individual needs.

How RSE is taught

- All pupils are taught in their form groups, usually by their form tutors.
- Teachers set a group agreement or ground rules with pupils to ensure that an atmosphere is created where pupils feel able to ask questions, discuss concerns, talk about feelings and relationships, understand about confidentiality and do not discuss personal experiences or issues or ask information of each other or the teacher. Staff do not discuss details of their personal experiences or relationships with pupils.
- We answer questions honestly and sensitively, appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils. Questions may be answered to the whole class, in small groups or on a one-to-one basis, as appropriate. We also use question boxes so that pupils can ask questions anonymously.
- Resources are chosen to ensure that they are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils. They take into account equality of opportunity through their use of language, cultural attitudes, family make-up and images, including body image, avoiding stereotyping, racism and sexism.
- A variety of teaching methods are used that enable pupils to participate and reflect on their learning, including role play, quizzes, pair and small group work and mixing groups so that pupils work with a range of peers. We also use case studies, stories and role plays to help de-personalise discussions and help pupils gain confidence to talk and listen to each other.
- The RSE policy reflects and is in line with our equal opportunities policy and the school ensures that the RSE teaching programme is inclusive, appropriate and relevant to all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities. Teachers ensure that the content, approach and use of inclusive language reflect the diversity of the school community, and help all pupils feel valued and included, regardless of their gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, disability, experiences and family background.
- Where needed, RSE is differentiated to meet the needs of pupils and specialist resources may be used to respond to their individual needs. In some cases pupils have individual support or work in small groups.
- Teachers do not offer individual pupils advice on contraception. The teaching programme includes information about local services that can offer confidential information and advice.
- Promoting inclusion and reducing discrimination are part of RSE throughout the school and reflect our equality policy. When teaching about relationships we include an understanding of different types of relationships, including lesbian, gay and bisexual relationships. When teaching about families we include a broad range of family structures that reflect the diversity amongst pupils to ensure all pupils feel their family is valued. These include: families with a single parent; parents who are married, parents who are not married, parents who are divorced, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender parents; children living between two homes with step parents and step siblings; in foster homes; in residential homes and living with relations other than biological parents. When teaching about gender we include an understanding about gender identity and diversity. Through our teaching young people understand the society in which they are living and growing up in, as well as developing respect for others and difference.

- Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic references, language and bullying are not tolerated in school and are challenged and dealt with as part of our commitment to promoting inclusion, gender equality and preventing bullying.
- We will emphasise the importance of strong and supportive relationships for family life, including marriage and civil partnership (both opposite and same-sex couples)

Right to withdraw children from Sex Education

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from Relationships Education, but they have the right to withdraw their child from some or all of the sex education parts of statutory RSE.

In this school the Sex Education parts of statutory RSE are defined as the teaching about:

- The choice to delay sex or to be intimate without sex
- Pregnancy choices including abortion
- The impact of alcohol and drugs on sexual behaviour
- How and where to get confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment

We hope that parents and carers will support this important part of young people's education and we will make sure that all parents and carers know what we will be teaching and when. However, we understand that some parents may want to educate their children in these aspects of statutory sex education themselves and so parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from these aspects.

This right is available to parents up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that, if the child wishes to have sex education it will be provided.

If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from these sex education lessons they must arrange a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will talk through their concerns and discuss the benefits of their child learning about these aspects. If they decide to withdraw their child, work will be provided to do in another class. We will offer packs of the teaching materials if parents wish to use these with their children at home. Parents can talk to the PSHE Coordinator about the resources to support this.

Even when a child has been withdrawn from sex education lessons, if the child should ask questions at other times, these questions would be answered honestly by staff in the context of the question being asked. Staff may talk to parents about the questions children are asking.

There may be exceptional circumstances when the school may not agree to the request, based on the needs of the child and this will be discussed with the parent.

Science National Curriculum

All secondary schools are required to teach the Science National Curriculum which covers biological aspects of; human reproduction, menstrual cycle, fertilisation, pregnancy and birth, hormonal and non-hormonal methods of contraception, sexually transmitted infections (including HIV/AIDS) See *Appendix 1 for more details*.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw from Science.

Health Education and Puberty

All secondary schools are required to teach statutory Health Education that includes teaching about puberty. This is covered in Year 7.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw from Health Education.

How sex education, biological aspects of science and puberty is taught

These are taught through PSHE and Science in form groups.

We provide a question box so that pupils can anonymously ask questions and these are then answered by the teacher.

9). Involving Pupils

To ensure the RSE programme meets the needs of all pupils, the PSHE Coordinator involves the school council in reviewing and evaluating the programme each year, and all students are asked to fill in a survey towards the end of the academic year. Responding to this feedback helps shape the curriculum for the following academic year.

Students are involved in raising awareness about relevant RSE issues such as sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, keeping safe online and anti-bullying. Information about where to go to get health and wellbeing advice is displayed in the school and included in pupil diaries.

10). Confidentiality, safeguarding and child protection

Although RSE is not about personal disclosures and personal issues, it is possible that a pupil may disclose personal information. Staff understand that they cannot promise pupils absolute confidentiality, and pupils know this too through the ground rules agreed at the start of the lesson. Pupils know that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality and are reassured that their best interests will be maintained. They will be reminded that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first, if possible, and then supported as appropriate. They are encouraged to talk to their parents or carers and are provided with support to do so.

If teachers are concerned in any way that a pupil is at risk of sexual or any other kind of abuse, they will talk to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and follow the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures.

This school upholds the right of any health professional to work within their professional code of conduct. However, when professionals are delivering aspects of RSE in the classroom they are bound by the school's RSE policy.

11). Assessing RSE

Pupils' progress in learning in RSE is assessed as part of the assessment of science and PSHE. This may include, but is not limited to, short knowledge quizzes at the ends of topics.

12). Monitoring and evaluating RSE

The PSHE Coordinator monitors teachers' planning and works with the Deputy Head, Heads of Year and form tutors to monitor delivery of lessons to ensure RSE is being taught. Pupils and staff are involved in evaluating the RSE teaching programme as part of the annual review of PSHE, which also involves the school council.

13). Training staff to deliver RSE

It is important that RSE is taught by teachers that are knowledgeable, skilled and confident. We ensure that teachers are trained to teach RSE and provide a range of training opportunities including school based INSET, team teaching, classroom observations and external training courses provided by Camden Learning and other external organisations.

Training could include:

- What to teach and when
- Leading discussions about attitudes and values
- Information updates
- Practising a variety of teaching methods
- Facilitating group discussions
- Answering questions
- Managing sensitive and controversial issues

14). Engaging and Involving Parents/Carers

We place the utmost importance on sharing responsibility with parents and carers for their children's education. We take account of religious and cultural views and aim to balance parental views with our commitment to comprehensive Relationships and Sex Education and compliance with the statutory guidance and Equality Act.

We will take every opportunity to inform and involve parents and carers by:

- Consulting with parents when developing the RSE policy and when it is reviewed
- Publishing the RSE policy on the school's website
- Including a summary of the content and organisation of the RSE curriculum in school information, including in year group handbooks
- Discussing individual concerns and helping parents and carers support the needs of their children

15). Disseminating the policy

A copy of this policy is on the school website. It is included in the

- Staff Handbook
- Governor Handbook

A summary is included in the school prospectus. Copies are supplied to visitors who are involved in providing RSE in school.

When the policy is being reviewed, parents are informed through the newsletter and school's website.

Key contacts:

PSHE Education Coordinator:	Rebecca Maggs
SRE Lead:	Rebecca Maggs
Lead Governor:	Angela Mason
Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Kathia Derrar
Healthy School Lead:	Kathia Derrar

Appendix 1 - Biological aspects of statutory Science

Key Stage 3

Reproduction

- reproduction in humans (as an example of a mammal), including the structure and function of the male and female reproductive systems, menstrual cycle (without details of hormones), gametes, fertilisation, gestation and birth, to include the effect of maternal lifestyle on the foetus through the placenta

Key Stage 4

Health, disease and the development of medicines

- communicable diseases including sexually transmitted infections in humans (including HIV/AIDS)

Coordination and Control

- hormones in human reproduction, hormonal and non-hormonal methods of contraception

Appendix 2 - Requirements for teaching statutory RSE and puberty (in Health Education)

Schools should continue to develop knowledge on topics specified for primary as required and in addition cover the following content by the end of secondary:

Topics	Pupils should know
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 the raising 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 <p>*marriage including both opposite sex and same sex couples</p>
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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. ● 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 eg 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

What pupils should know in Health Education by the end of Secondary School:

Changing adolescent body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key facts about puberty, the changing adolescent body and menstrual wellbeing • the main changes which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health
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Appendix 3 - PSHE Curriculum, including the RSE Curriculum

Year 7 PSHE Overview

Autumn Term 1	Transition to School + Building Relationships
Autumn Term 2	Health, Puberty + Emotional Wellbeing
Spring Term 1	Health, Puberty + Emotional Wellbeing
Spring Term 2	Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships
Summer Term 1	Exploring Identity
Summer Term 2	Careers

Year 8 PSHE Overview

Autumn Term 1	Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships
Autumn Term 2	Mental Health
Spring Term 1	The Equality Act and Challenging Discrimination
Spring Term 2	Careers and Workplace Skills
Summer Term 1	Managing Finances
Summer Term 2	Drugs and Drug Misuse

Year 9 PSHE Overview

Autumn Term 1	Digital Literacy and Online Safety
Autumn Term 2	Physical and Mental Health
Spring Term 1	Setting goals, successful studying + choosing options
Spring Term 2	Politics and Government
Summer Term 1	Serious Organised Crime Protecting Human Rights
Summer Term 2	Sex and Relationships Education

Year 10 PSHE Overview

Autumn Term 1	Transitioning to GCSE Careers + Work Experience
Autumn Term 2	Mental Health
Spring Term 1	Promoting Tolerance and Diversity
Spring Term 2	Healthy + Unhealthy Relationships
Summer Term 1	Exploring Influence
Summer Term 2	Managing Finances Preparing for Work Experience

Year 11 PSHE Overview

Autumn Term 1	Building for the Future Next Steps: Post-16 Options
Autumn Term 2	The Law and Britain's place in the world
Spring Term 1	Responsible Health Choices
Spring Term 2	Healthy Relationships, Families and Sex Education
Summer Term 1	Preparing for Exams