



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Date approved:	Approved December 2021
Review Frequency:	Every three years
Date next review due:	December 2024
Scope of Policy:	This policy applies to all staff, students and volunteers at Riverside School

Sex and Relationships Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving friendships and relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) policy including Statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

Purpose

The school's objective is to support and help our pupils through their physical, emotional and moral development. We will help our pupils to move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood respecting themselves and others in the process. Most of the Sex and Relationship Education programme is taught through Civics, but other subjects, science in particular, have an important input into the whole programme.

Effective Sex and Relationship Education does not encourage sexual experimentation. It teaches young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. Our pupils will be enabled to mature, to build up their confidence and self-esteem, and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity.

Pupils will be given accurate information and helped to develop skills to enable them to understand difference and respect themselves and others, and for the purpose also of preventing and removing prejudice.

Policy into practice

Sex and relationship education is integrated into the Civics curriculum. This will be through timetabled lessons (year 7-10) or through specific days when the normal timetable is collapsed (year 11-13). Where appropriate students may be taught in single sex groups. The delivery of Civics will be led by teaching staff but other professionals may be brought in to support the learning in these lessons.

The Civics curriculum and teaching and learning is regularly monitored and evaluated by the Civics leadership team, through learning walks, observations and half termly student assessments.

Compliance with Statutory Requirements

- Our policy complies guidance from the DfE under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 makes RSE and Health Education statutory in all secondary schools and Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (statutory guidance) (2019).

Students' withdrawal from SRE

Any parent/carer has the right to withdraw their child from some elements of RSE lessons in the context of Civics but not when it occurs in the statutory science curriculum. One week prior to the RSE module students are

informed that their parents have the right to withdraw them from RSE lessons. In addition, communication is sent to all parents at the start of each academic year inviting them to discuss RSE education.

The parental right to withdraw your child applies up until three terms before your child turns 16. After that point, if the young person wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, they have the statutory right to request to do so without their parents being notified or seeking their permission. At these times, the school will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those three terms.

These are the only lessons that students can be withdrawn, with all topics being covered in Y9-Y13:

- Contraception: access and advice
- Assessing readiness/appropriateness for sexual activity
- Common STIs – role of contraception in avoidance
- Support for unintended pregnancy

Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from any lessons on Relationships or Health Education. If a parent wishes to remove their child then a letter signed by their parent should be addressed to the Headteacher and alternative work will be set.

Engaging Parents/Carers and the Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

On entry to the school, parents are invited to read the PSHE policy, including our approach to Relationships and Sex Education. This helps to establish consultation and a partnership with parents, which reinforces the dual responsibility for PSHE learning.

We take every opportunity to inform and involve parents/carers in the following ways:

- By making our commitment clear in the school induction programme and entry interviews
- By inviting parents/carers to discuss personal development with Form Tutors, Head of year and Subject Leads when their child enters the school and at Parent Evenings.
- By inviting parents/carers to a meeting to discuss RSE in the school as required.
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As such, parents are specifically made aware of their right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education we deliver within statutory RSE, but not from those lessons which fall under the statutory science curriculum.

The guidance should be read in conjunction with:

- *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (statutory guidance) (2019)*
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education (statutory guidance) (2021)*
- *Equality Act 2010 and schools (2010)*
- *Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools (advice for schools) (2018)*
- *Preventing and Tackling Bullying (advice for schools, including advice on cyberbullying) (2017)*
- *Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools (advice for schools) (2021)*
- *The Equality and Human Rights Commission Advice and Guidance (provides advice on avoiding discrimination in a variety of educational contexts)*
- *Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools (guidance for maintained schools on promoting basic important British values as part of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) (2018)*



PARTNERSHIP LEARNING
RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Excellence for All



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Year group	Overview
Year 7	Puberty and managing feelings
	- Physical and emotion changes that take place during puberty
	- How puberty affects boys and girls differently
	- How puberty can affect your feelings
	How and where to go for help and support
	- Knowing who you can talk to about puberty
Year 8	- Strategies to help students manage puberty in a positive way
	How to talk about sex and relationships
	- Building healthy relationships – friendship and romantic
	- Recognising the importance of friendships and relationships
Year 9	- The difference between friendship and a romantic relationship
	Human sexuality and feeling comfortable in yourself
	- Different attitudes towards sex
	- Self-love
	Contraceptives and STIs
	- Different contraceptive options
	- Risks associated with sexual transmitted diseases
	- Protection against sexual transmitted diseases
	- Consent
	Family planning
- Where contraceptives are available from	
- Marriage and divorce	
Year 10	Sexual health and risks
	- How to access sexual health services
	- Choices and consequences
	Emotional well-being related to sex and relationships
	- What love means
Year 11	- How to recognise if you are unhappy in a relationship
	Guest speakers and workshops:
	Contraception and STIs
	Consent and self-love
Year 12	Making the right choice for you
	Sexual health
	- Contraceptives
	- Risks and consequences
	- Where to go for advice
	Emotional well-being
	- Managing your own feelings
	- Giving advice
Family planning	
- Marriage and divorce	
Year 13	Guest speakers and workshops:
	Sexual health clinics at university
	Where to go for help and advice at university
	How drugs and alcohol can affect your emotions