



# RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY (September 2020)

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body annually.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Helen Cullen', is positioned above the printed name.

Signed:

**Helen Cullen**

Headteacher

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## 1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place with regard to our Christian values of
  - Honesty
  - Forgiveness
  - Empathy
  - Courage
  - Resilience
  - Kindness
  - Respect
- 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

## 2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

In teaching RSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996. At Sexey's School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

## 3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents.

## 4. 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.

## 5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per 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 don't seek answers online.

## **6. Delivery of RSE**

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in Religious Education lessons.

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, LGBT 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).

## **7. Roles and responsibilities**

### **7.1 The Governing Board**

The Governing Board has delegated the approval of this policy to the Pastoral and Recreational Committee.

### **7.2 The Headteacher**

The headteacher 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 (see section 8).

### **7.3 Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- 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 headteacher. RSE is taught by tutors and is overseen by Heads of Year.

#### **7.4 Pupils**

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

#### **8. 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.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Head of Year will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

#### **9. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Heads of Year and the Assistant Head (Pastoral) through:

Line Management Meetings, Heads of Year Meetings and Learning Walks

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by tutors and Heads of Year.

## Appendix 1: RSE within PSHE Curriculum

### PSHE: OVERVIEW

	Autumn 1 Health & wellbeing	Autumn 2 Living in the wider world	Spring 1 Relationships	Spring 2 Health & wellbeing	Summer 1 Relationships	Summer 2 Living in the wider world
Year 7	<b>Transition and safety</b> Transition to secondary school and personal safety in and outside school, including first aid	<b>Developing skills and aspirations</b> Careers, teamwork and enterprise skills, and raising aspirations	<b>Diversity</b> Diversity, prejudice, and bullying	<b>Health and puberty</b> Healthy routines, influences on health, puberty, unwanted contact, and FGM	<b>Building relationships</b> Self-worth, romance and friendships (including online) and relationship boundaries	<b>Financial decision making</b> Saving, borrowing, budgeting and making financial choices
Year 8	<b>Drugs and alcohol</b> Alcohol and drug misuse and pressures relating to drug use	<b>Community and careers</b> Equality of opportunity in careers and life choices, and different types and patterns of work	<b>Discrimination</b> Discrimination in all its forms, including: racism, religious discrimination, disability, discrimination, sexism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia	<b>Emotional wellbeing</b> Mental health and emotional wellbeing, including body image and coping strategies	<b>Identity and relationships</b> Gender identity, sexual orientation, consent, 'sexting', and an introduction to contraception	<b>Digital literacy</b> Online safety, digital literacy, media reliability, and gambling hooks
Year 9	<b>Peer influence, substance use and gangs</b> Healthy and unhealthy friendships, assertiveness, substance misuse, and gang exploitation	<b>Setting goals</b> Learning strengths, career options and goal setting as part of the GCSE options process	<b>Respectful relationships</b> Families and parenting, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and relationship changes	<b>Healthy lifestyle</b> Diet, exercise, lifestyle balance and healthy choices, and first aid	<b>Intimate relationships</b> Relationships and sex education including consent, contraception, the risks of STIs, and attitudes to pornography	<b>Employability skills</b> Employability and online presence
Year 10	<b>Mental health</b> Mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding health, including during periods of transition or change	<b>Financial decision making</b> The impact of financial decisions, debt, gambling and the impact of advertising on financial choices	<b>Healthy relationships</b> Relationships and sex expectations, myths, pleasure and challenges, including the impact of the media and pornography	<b>Exploring influence</b> The influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media	<b>Addressing extremism and radicalisation</b> Communities, belonging and challenging extremism	<b>Work experience</b> Preparation for and evaluation of work experience and readiness for work
Year 11	<b>Building for the future</b> Self-efficacy, stress management, and future opportunities	<b>Next steps</b> Application processes, and skills for further education, employment and career progression	<b>Communication in relationships</b> Personal values, assertive communication (including in relation to contraception and sexual health), relationship challenges and abuse	<b>Independence</b> Responsible health choices, and safety in independent contexts	<b>Families</b> Different families and parental responsibilities, pregnancy, marriage and forced marriage and changing relationships	

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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That there are different types of committed, stable relationships</li> <li>• How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into</li> <li>• The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships</li> <li>• The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help</li> <li>• That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control</li> <li>• What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them</li> <li>• What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online</li> <li>• The impact of viewing harmful content</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail</li> <li>• How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online</li> </ul>
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women</li> <li>• That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others</li> <li>• That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex</li> <li>• The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available</li> <li>• The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment</li> <li>• How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour</li> <li>• How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment</li> </ul>



### Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSHE

Dear Parent/Guardian

#### Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

At Sexey's School we want all children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. As part of this together with all secondary age children our students are taught Relationships, and Sex Education. These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The aim is to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the pupils' needs within the context of our Christian values.

Parents have a right to request to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

The science curriculum in all also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.

There is also no right to withdraw from Relationships Education as the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Once we receive a request that your child be excused, that request will be complied with until you change or revoke it. The procedure for exercising the right of withdrawal is as follows:

1. You should complete the attached form and return it to school. It will be kept on file for use by PSHE teachers to ascertain which children are excused from a particular section of the programme so that alternative work may be arranged for them.
2. Parents who are considering exercising the right of withdrawal may wish to discuss the matter with their child's Head of Year, prior to making a decision. You should contact the school if you would like to make an appointment to do this.

Forms should be returned prior to the start of the Autumn Term.

Yours faithfully



Assistant Head – Pastoral

**Please return prior to the start of the Autumn Term.**

#### Relationships and Sex Education

I wish to withdraw my child \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_  
from Relationships and Sex Education lessons.

I understand that he/she will complete the elements within the Science Curriculum

Name of Parent/Guardian (BLOCK CAPITALS) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_