



St Wystan's  
A REPTON SCHOOL

# Relationship and Sex Education Policy

*Policy reviewed: December 2024*

*Policy to be reviewed: December 2025*

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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
- › 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

## 2. Statutory requirements

As an independent primary school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

We don't have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum, including requirements to teach science. This includes the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. At St Wystan's, we choose to teach sex education material that we deem suitable and necessary for the rounded education of our pupils.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state, as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.
- The Independent Schools Standards 2019 issued by the Department for Education.

At St Wystan's, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

## 3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents/carers. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or 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 consultation – parents/carers were invited to read and comment on the policy.
4. Pupil consultation – there was a consultation with pupils to discover what they want from their RS
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

## 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 RSE 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/carers, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and do not seek answers online.

We will share all curriculum materials with parents and carers upon request.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- › Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- › How a baby is naturally conceived and born

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

## 6. Delivery of RSE

- › RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum for Forms 1 to 6. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).
- › The material delivered follows the guidance set out by the PSHE Association and is age appropriate at every stage.
- › Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:
  - Families and people who care for me
  - Caring friendships
  - Respectful relationships
  - Online relationships
  - Being safe
- › The lessons are taught with a mixture of discussion, presentations and learning activities. The visual materials shown are carefully considered to further the children's understanding and are always age-appropriate.
- › Tasks set in RSE will consider the learning needs of the class and, where necessary, be differentiated for those with specific learning needs.
- › The sex education component of RSE is delivered in the summer term of Year 6. The material covered includes; how sex is a normal part of a committed, loving relationship, a definition of what sexual intercourse is for heterosexual couples and how sexual intercourse can lead to conception.

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 make sure 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 and 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).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

## 6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- During lessons, makes pupils feel:
  - Safe and supported
  - Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that is appropriate for them, for example in:
  - A whole class setting
  - Small groups or targeted sessions
  - Digital formats
- Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

## 6.2 Use of resources

We **will** consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and will not provoke distress

## 7. Use of external organisations and materials

We will make sure that an agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

The school remains responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used don't undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We **will**:

- Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
  - Are age-appropriate

- Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
- Comply with:
  - This policy
  - The [Teachers' Standards](#)
  - The [Equality Act 2010](#)
  - The [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
  - The [Education Act 1996](#)
- Only work with external agencies where we have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses
- Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
- Review any case study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
- Be clear on:
  - What they are going to say
  - Their position on the issues to be discussed
- Ask to see in advance any materials that the agency may use
- Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow our usual safeguarding procedures for these people
- Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to us, or to parents and carers
- Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
- Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
- Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers
- Share all external materials with parents and carers

We **won't**, under any circumstances:

- Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
- Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme

## 8. Roles and responsibilities

### 8.1 The governing board

The governing board will hold the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

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

### 8.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, for sharing resources and materials with parents and carers, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 9).

### 8.3 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/carers 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.

Staff responsible for teaching RSE include the subject leader for PSHCE, class teachers and members of tey SLT.

## 8.4 Pupils

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

## 9. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from relationships education.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE, taught in Form 6.

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

Alternative school-work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

## 10. 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 headteacher 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.

## 11. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Beth Bennett, the subject leader for PSHCE through:

- › Planning scrutinies
- › learning walks

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

This policy will be reviewed by Beth Bennett, annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by Kara Lebihan.

Policy owner	Kara Lebihan
Date rewritten	December 2024
Date of Next Review	December 2025

Governing Body Approval	Yes/No	Signed/Dated	
Website/App	Yes/No	ISI	Yes/No

## Appendix 1

In 2024, the UK government released draft updates to the statutory Relationships, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) guidance for primary schools in England. These proposed changes, which are currently under consultation and not yet finalized, include:

- **Introduction of Age Limits:** Specific age restrictions are proposed for teaching certain topics to ensure age-appropriateness:
  - **Online Risks:** Discussions about online gaming, social media, and scams should begin no earlier than Year 3.
  - **Puberty Education:** Instruction on puberty should commence no earlier than Year 4.
  - **Sex Education:** Topics related to sex education should be introduced no earlier than Year 5, aligning with the national science curriculum on conception and birth.
- **Guidance on Gender Identity:** The draft advises that the concept of gender identity, described as a person's internal sense of their own gender, is complex and contested, and therefore should not be taught in primary schools. However, factual information about biological sex and gender reassignment remains part of the curriculum.
- **Parental Transparency:** Schools are reminded of the legal obligation to keep parents informed about RSHE content. Parents have the right to know what their children are being taught and can request access to teaching materials.
- **Potential New Topics for Consultation:** The draft seeks feedback on incorporating additional subjects into the curriculum, including:
  - Suicide prevention
  - Sexual harassment and sexual violence
  - Loneliness
  - The prevalence of 'deepfakes'
  - Healthy behaviors during pregnancy, as well as miscarriage
  - Illegal online behaviors, including drug and knife supply
  - The dangers of vaping
  - Menstrual and gynecological health, including conditions like endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)
- **Clarification on Teaching About Families:** The draft guidance indicates that primary schools have discretion over whether to discuss sexual orientation or families with same-sex parents. It suggests that schools can primarily refer to families with a mother and a father when discussing family structures.

**It's important to note that these changes are part of a draft guidance under consultation as of 2024 and have not been implemented. Schools should continue to follow the existing statutory RSHE guidance from 2020 until any new guidance is officially finalized and published**





## Appendix 2: Curriculum map

### Relationships and sex education curriculum map

	<b>Families and Friendships</b>	<b>Safe Relationships</b>	<b>Respecting ourselves and others</b>	<b>Growing and changing</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	Roles of different people; families; feeling cared for	Recognising privacy; staying safe; seeking permission	How behaviour affects others; being polite and respectful	Recognising what makes them unique and special; feelings; managing when things go wrong
<b>Year 2</b>	Making friends; feeling lonely and getting help	Managing secrets; resisting pressure and getting help; recognising hurtful behaviour	Recognising things in common and differences; playing and working co-operatively; sharing opinions	Growing older; naming body parts; moving class or year
<b>Year 3</b>	What makes a family; features of family life	Personal boundaries; safely responding to others; the impact of hurtful behaviour	Recognising respectful behaviour; the importance of self-respect; courtesy and being polite	Personal strengths and achievements; managing and reframing setbacks
<b>Year 4</b>	Positive friendships, including online	Responding to hurtful behaviour; managing confidentiality; recognising risks online	Respecting differences and similarities; discussing difference sensitively	Physical and emotional changes in puberty; external genitalia; personal hygiene routines; support with puberty
<b>Year 5</b>	Managing friendships and peer influence	Physical contact and feeling safe	Responding respectfully to a wide range of people; recognising prejudice and discrimination	Personal identity; recognising individuality and different qualities; mental wellbeing
<b>Year 6</b>	Attraction to others; romantic relationships; civil partnership and marriage	Recognising and managing pressure; consent in different situations	Expressing opinions and respecting other points of view, including discussing topical issues	Human reproduction and birth; increasing independence; managing transition

### Appendix 3: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability</li> <li>• The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives</li> <li>• That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care</li> <li>• That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up</li> <li>• That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</li> <li>• How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed</li> </ul>
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</li> <li>• The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</li> <li>• That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</li> <li>• That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right</li> <li>• How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed</li> </ul>
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs</li> <li>• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• The conventions of courtesy and manners</li> <li>• The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</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 those in positions of authority</li> <li>• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help</li> <li>• What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</li> <li>• The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not</li> <li>• That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous</li> <li>• The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them</li> <li>• How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met</li> <li>• How information and data is shared and used online</li> </ul>
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</li> <li>• About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe</li> <li>• That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact</li> <li>• How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know</li> <li>• How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult</li> <li>• How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard</li> <li>• How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so</li> <li>• Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources</li> </ul>

## Appendix 4: Parent/carer form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent/carer		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/carers	

## **Appendix 5 – Pupil consultation**

A cross section of our pupils in Forms 5 and 6 read through the policy and wanted to know the following:

- What is and is not okay to talk about with regards to relationships and sex.
- What we should do if someone is talking about something that makes us feel uncomfortable.
- How to be safe from people who want to do us harm.
- When is an okay age to have a romantic relationship.
- How to maintain a healthy romantic relationship.
- How to take care of a baby.

They thought that the following should not be covered in KS2:

- The use of pictures when learning about sexual intercourse.
- Details about types of contraceptives.