



SEDBERGH SCHOOL

RSE Policy	
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Policy Owner	Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral)
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Governor	tbc
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Publication	Sedbergh School Website

Policy Context and Rationale

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

(DfE – Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2020)

Sedbergh School understands its obligation to teach RSE as part of the revised Department for Education statutory guidance.

Documents that inform the school's PSHE and RSE policies include:

- Education Act (1996)
- Learning and Skills Act (2000)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Supplementary Guidance RSE for the 21st century (2014)
- Keeping children safe in education (2021)
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2020)
- Sedbergh School Safeguarding Policy

Parents and carers will be informed annually about the policy through communication from the School. The policy is available to parents and carers through the Sedbergh School website. If you require this policy in any other format, please contact hm@sedberghschool.org.

Policy Aims and Objectives

The aim of Relationships and Sex Education in our school is to equip children and young people with the information, skills and values they need to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships and to take responsibility for their physical, sexual and emotional health and wellbeing.

We recognise the central importance of relationships in supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, academic achievement and future success. Our programme also aims to support pupils in their personal development with regard to attributes such as Humility, Ambition, Resilience and Kindness.

We focus on attitudes and values, skills and as well as knowledge and understanding. This will include developing self-esteem, the skills to manage relationships and most importantly keep themselves safe in all their relationships.

As a school we recognise the impact of social media, the media and the digital world on our children and young people. We aim to deliver an RSE programme that recognises and addresses this to ensure that pupils know how to keep themselves and their personal information safe.

As such, we are committed to:

- providing a supportive and responsive framework in which balanced and well-informed discussions can take place;
- preparing pupils for puberty by giving them an understanding of sexual development, and matters of health and personal hygiene;
- supporting pupils to develop a sense of competency, self-respect, confidence and empathy;
- nurturing a positive and open-minded culture around issues of sexuality and relationships;
- equipping pupils with the vocabulary to describe themselves, their feelings and their bodies;
- understanding the value of the PSHE and RSE programmes for pupils' personal development, academic progress and wider school experience;
- facilitating the personalised thinking and study skills for success, as well as a range of practices to promote self-regulation and positive mental wellbeing.

Creating a safe and supportive learning environment

RSE is predominantly delivered by tutors in small groups in single year group and single gender groups (as dictated by the tutoring structure at Sedbergh). This enables clear ground rules to be

established to ensure a safe learning environment. Occasionally, where appropriate, whole year groups, or the whole school may be involved in the delivery of particular topics, and, again, these are designed to ensure a safe learning environment, delivered by experts in their field.

In the course of RSE education lessons, pupils may indicate in some way that they are vulnerable or may be at risk of harm. Lessons and associated discussions may prompt pupils to seek advice or support on a particular personal issue. There are clear links here with the school's Safeguarding Policy, and all staff therefore have the clarity about what is required in such circumstances. The procedure for identifying and reporting any concerns, including low-level concerns, about a pupil is explained to all staff during the Safeguarding Update in the mandatory Michaelmas Term INSET, and further information can be found in the Safeguarding Policy.

Equality and Diversity

Full PSHE education provision is an integral part of every pupil's curriculum, though parents have a right to withdraw their children from those parts of Relationships and Sex Education not within the national curriculum science programmes of study.

RSE is taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of pupils based on their home circumstances (which may feature single-parent families, LGBTQ+ parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers and other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some pupils may have a different structure of support around them (such as looked-after children or young carers).

This policy is intended to be inclusive of the requirements, feelings and sensitivities of different ethnic groups, and we are committed to responding solicitously to them. As part of our commitment to ensuring that all pupils receive a high-quality, relevant, and responsive Relationships and Sex Education, we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all of our pupils, including SEND pupils, taking specialist advice where necessary from the Learning Support Department. The School believes that its pupils are entitled to a RSE curriculum that is relevant and appropriate to their needs, and we are committed to dealing sensitively and honestly with issues of gender and sexual orientation.

Moral framework

The School's approach to RSE is underpinned by the fundamental British values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, and Individual Liberty, and the School's values, which include humility, resilience and kindness. An ethos of trust, honesty, and mutual respect is central to RSE lessons and discussions, and pupils are encouraged to understand:

- the difference between right and wrong;
- respect for others, truth, and property;
- how one's actions can have an impact on other people;
- how to make reasoned judgements;
- the importance of respect, empathy and fairness;
- non-exploitation in sexual relationships;
- the concept of commitment and trust;
- an acknowledgement of rights, duties and responsibilities in sexual relationships.

Teaching and Learning

Principles and Methodology

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.

Planning and Timetabling

Relationship and Sex Education is primarily taught in the Michaelmas Term in every year group. Heads of Year are responsible for planning and resourcing PSHE lessons, including those dedicated to RSE topics, and for overseeing the delivery and content of lessons via their tutor teams.

Year 9

	Lesson 1/2	Lesson 3/4	Lesson 5/6	Lesson 7/8	Lesson 9/10
Michaelmas Term	Relationships: Introduction	Relationships: Types of relationships / families	Relationships: Sex / consent / contraception	Study Skills: Exam Preparation	Relationships: Bullying and Support

Year 10

	Lesson 1/2	Lesson 3/4	Lesson 5/6	Lesson 7/8	Lesson 9/10
Michaelmas Term	Relationships: Introduction	Relationships: Unhealthy relationships / abuse / support	Relationships: Consent / manipulation	Study Skills: Exam Preparation	Relationships: Use of contraception / abortion / fertility / alternatives

Year 11

	Lesson 1/2	Lesson 3/4	Lesson 5/6	Lesson 7/8	Lesson 9/10
Michaelmas Term	Relationships: Managing relationships / impact of separation / divorce	Relationships: Exploitation / bullying / harassment	Relationships: Sexual attraction / sexuality / gender	Relationships: Readiness for sex / unintended pregnancy / teenage parenthood / adoption & fostering	Study Skills: Exam Preparation

Year 12

	Lesson 1/2	Lesson 3/4	Lesson 5/6	Lesson 7/8	Lesson 9/10
Michaelmas Term	Relationships: Healthy relationships / counter-bullying	Relationships: Abuse / support / consent / assault / rape	Relationships: Practical contraception	Study Skills: EPQ launch	Relationships: Aggression / deescalating / offensive weapons / alcohol

Year 13

	Lesson 1/2	Lesson 3/4	Lesson 5/6	Lesson 7/8	Lesson 9/10
Michaelmas Term	UCAS	Relationships: Implications of parenthood / unintended pregnancy / STIs	Relationships: Practical contraception	Relationships: Aggression / deescalating / offensive weapons / alcohol	Relationships: HBV / FGM / Forced Marriage

Responding to pupils' questions

It is important that pupils feel able to ask any questions that they wish and that their questions are valued. However, consideration should be given to how to respond to questions.

If necessary, teachers should feel able to ask a pupil to wait for an answer to give them time to consult with the school's leadership team if they feel this appropriate, or if the question raises potential safeguarding concerns. (For instance: 'That is a really interesting question and I need time to think because I want to give you a proper answer.')

Teachers should feel able to work with colleagues if necessary to construct an appropriate answer.

Links to other school policies and areas of the curriculum

This policy supports and complements the following other School policies:

- Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy
- Counter Bullying Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Drugs and Drug Testing Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy
- Pupil Equal Opportunity Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Involving Parents and Carers

Legislation states that parents have the right to withdraw their children from aspects of Sex Education which are not part of the Science curriculum. Any requests of this nature should be addressed to the Headmaster, where a meeting will be arranged to fully understand the wishes of the parent / carer and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. Once these discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, the school will respect the parent / carer request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms. If a pupil is excused from sex education, it is the school's responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. There is no right to withdraw from other aspects of the Relationships Education or Health Education, or any other part of the PSHE programme of study.

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science components of sex education within RSE up to and until three 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.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from compulsory relationship education as part of the new statutory framework for Relationships and Sex Education from September 2020.

Any requests to withdraw a pupil from these elements of the RSE curriculum should be addressed to the relevant Head of Year, who will make the necessary arrangements for alternative educational activities.

Aspects of RSE covered in lessons

We aim to ensure that all pupils, over time and in the course of the RSE lessons, will have the opportunity to consider:

Different Types of Relationships

- 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;
- 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 peer-on-peer abuse, different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, the 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;

Being Safe in the Digital World and Online Relationships

- 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;
- what to do and where to get support to report material or manage problematic issues online;
- the impact of viewing harmful content;
- that sexually-explicit material can present a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others, and can negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners;
- that sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children, known as youth-produced sexual imagery) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties;
- how information and data are generated, collected, shared, and used online;
- 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;

Being Safe, Intimate and Sexual relationships and Sexual Health

- 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);
- that all aspects of health can be affected by choices made 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.

Pupils are made aware of the relevant legal information when relevant topics are being taught, including:

- Marriage
- Consent, including the age of consent
- Violence against women and girls
- Online behaviours including image and information sharing (including 'sexting', youth-produced sexual imagery, nudes, etc.)
- Pornography
- Abortion
- Sexuality
- Gender identity
- Substance misuse
- Violence and exploitation by gangs
- Extremism/radicalisation
- Criminal exploitation (for example, through gang involvement or 'county lines' drugs operations)
- hate crime
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Whole School Approach

The RSE curriculum is set in the context of a wider whole-school approach to supporting pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for life at and beyond school. The RSE curriculum complements and is supported by the School's other policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, bullying, mental wellbeing, health and safeguarding (including the handling of any concerns that emerge through the RSE programme). The subjects sits within the context of Sedbergh's commitment to an holistic education, which aims develop its pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally, and within its House-based system of pastoral care.