Relationship and sex education policy



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Person responsible:	Ms J Hilton

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1. Aims

The Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum at Churchdown School Academy allows pupils to develop knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy.

Through the curriculum they will develop resilience and the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. They will also develop their confidence to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

The aims of 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 a secondary academy, we must provide RSE to all pupils under section 34 of the <u>Children and Social Work Act 2017.</u>

In teaching RSE, we're required by our funding agreements to have regard to <u>guidance</u> issued by the secretary of state, as outlined in section 403 of the <u>Education Act 1996</u>.

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 <u>Equality Act 2010</u>

• 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

At Churchdown School Academy we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

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

- 1. All relevant information including relevant national and local guidance has been reviewed by the deputy head
- 2. School staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
- 3. Parent/carers and any interested parties were invited to consult with the school about the policy
- 4. Pupils were consulted to establish what they want included in their RSE
- 5. Once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) involves learning about emotional, social and cultural development of students. It involves learning about the physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity in an age appropriate and sensitive way.

RSE forms part of the PSHE curriculum and complements the biological aspects of sex education covered in compulsory science lessons. As well as providing accurate information on human biology and sexual reproduction, it gives pupils essential skills for building positive, respectful, non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. 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, 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 don't seek answers online.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught primarily within the PSHE education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

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. For information regarding the resources used to plan the curriculum see Appendix 4.

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).

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:
 - o Safe and supported
 - o Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- > Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
 - A whole-class setting
 - o Small groups or targeted sessions
 - o 1-to-1 discussions
 - o 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 won't provoke distress

7. Use of external organisations and materials

We will make sure that any 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
 - o 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're going to say
 - o 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

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 approve the RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

8.2 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 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 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 the following members of staff: Ms Hilton, Miss Hicks, Miss Bullock, Miss Tandy and Miss Watson.

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 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 and addressed to the headteacher.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

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

10. Training

Staff who teach RSE 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 Ms Hilton (deputy head) through:

- Planning meetings
- Learning walks
- Work scrutiny
- > Relationship and sex education policy. Reviewed September 2023
- Data drops
- Lesson observations

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

This policy will be reviewed by the deputy head (pupil wellbeing) annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

Appendix 1: Relationship and sex education curriculum overview

RSE is taught primarily within the PSHE education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the Science curriculum, and other aspects are included in Religious Education (RE). PSHE is delivered through the core themes of:

- Health and wellbeing
- Living in the wider world
- Relationships

Year 7	Topic			
Autumn 1	In PSHE (Health and wellbeing) pupils will learn: • how to identify, express and manage their emotions in a constructive way • how to manage the challenges of moving to a new school • how to establish and manage friendships In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: • building resilience, including who they would ask for support			
Autumn 2	In PSHE (Health and wellbeing) pupils will learn: • how to manage physical and emotional changes during puberty • about personal hygiene • how to recognise and respond to inappropriate and unwanted contact • about FGM and how to access help and support In science: • human reproduction In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: • friendships, healthy and unhealthy relationships, respect, self-respect and consent External providers: • Hope – Anti-bullying School / National events: • Anti-bullying week			
Spring 1	In PSHE (Healthy relationships) pupils will learn:			
Spring 2	In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: using positive language to promote positive relationships			
Summer 1	In PSHE (Relationships) pupils will learn: how to develop self-worth and self-efficacy about qualities and behaviours relating to different types of positive relationships how to recognise unhealthy relationships how to recognise and challenge media stereotypes how to evaluate expectations for romantic relationships about consent, and how to seek and assertively communicate consent In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: safe and unsafe relationships, including online relationships 			

	School / National events: • LGBT Awareness week
Summer 2	In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: taking responsibility for their decisions

Year 8	Topic	
Autumn 1	In PSHE (Healthy relationships) pupils will learn:	
Autumn 2	In PSHE (Living in the wider world) pupils will learn:	
Spring 1	In PSHE (Health and wellbeing) pupils will learn:	
Spring 2	In PSHE (Healthy relationships) pupils will learn: the qualities of positive, healthy relationships how to demonstrate positive behaviours in healthy relationships about gender identity and sexual orientation about forming new partnerships and developing relationships about the law in relation to consent that the legal and moral duty is with the seeker of consent how to effectively communicate about consent in relationships about the risks of 'sexting' and how to manage requests or pressure to	

	send an image In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: • making positive choices around friendships and relationships, including online School / National events: • LGBT Awareness week	
Summer 1	In PSHE (Health and wellbeing) pupils will learn:	
Summer 2	In PSHE (Living in the wider world) pupils will learn: • how to develop self-worth and confidence In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: • using positive language to promote positive relationships School / National events: • Childrens Mental Health week	

Year 9	Topic	
Autunm 1	In PSHE (Health and wellbeing) pupils will learn: about the relationship between physical and mental health influences on body image to make independent health choices to take increased responsibility for physical health, including testicular self-examination In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: managing their emotions and their mental health School / National events: Anti-bullying week 	
Autumn 2	In PSHE (Healthy relationships) pupils will learn: • about different types of families and parenting, including single parents, same sex parents, blended families, adoption and fostering • about positive relationships in the home and ways to reduce homelessness amongst young people • about conflict and its causes in different contexts, e.g. with family and friends • conflict resolution strategies • how to manage relationship and family changes, including relationship breakdown, separation and divorce • how to access support services In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: • using positive language to promote positive relationships	
Spring 1	In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: • consent	

	School / National events: • Childrens Mental Health week	
Spring 2	In PSHE (Health and wellbeing) pupils will learn: • how to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy friendships • how to assess risk and manage influences, including online • about 'group-think' and how it affects behaviour • how to recognise passive, aggressive and assertive behaviour, and how to communicate assertively • to manage risk in relation to gangs • about positive social norms in relation to drug and alcohol use • about legal and health risks in relation to drug and alcohol use, including addiction and dependence In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: • making good choices in relation to their future ambitions	
Summer 1	In PSHE (Healthy relationships) pupils will learn:	
Summer 2	In tutor time (Headstrong) pupils will learn about: • maintaining positive relationships with their friends whilst making independent choices	

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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	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, if needed
Respectful relationships, including friendships	• 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 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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online and media	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 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
	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	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)
Intimate and sexual relationships,	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
including sexual health	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 about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available The facts are facts as the facts are facts are facts as the fact
	The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage That there are phasing in relation to prognancy (with modically and legally accurate
	 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

Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdr	awing from sex education with	in relationsh	ips and sex education
Any other informa	tion you would like the school t	to consider	
Parent signature			
TO BE COMPLET	ED BY THE SCHOOL		
Agreed actions from discussion with parents		part in all re	nts and agreed actions taken. Plationships lessons and during the sex ependently on a project

Appendix 4: Suggested resources

Teaching resources

There are many excellent resources available, free of charge, which CSA draws upon when delivering PSHE and RSE. Each resource is assessed carefully to ensure it is appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils and sensitive to their need. PSHE and RSE teachers also draw upon the expertise of other subjects where appropriate.

Below are some of the resources that have been used to plan PSHE and RSE lessons. This is not an exhaustive list:

PSHE Association Programme of study for KS1-5

Sexwise: https://www.sexwise.org.uk/

Disrespect NoBody from the Home Office and Government Equalities Office.

Consent: lesson plans from the PSHE Association.

LGBT inclusivity: Stonewall lesson plans and materials for primary and secondary.

Resources covering all contexts, including online, and specifically relationships and bullying, alcohol, smoking, stress, body image from Public Health England website with videos made by young people and resources tested with teachers.

Rise Above: https://riseabove.org.uk/

NSPCC: https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/schools/making-sense-relationships

Young Minds: https://youngminds.org.uk/

Anti-bullying Alliance: https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/

Sexting advice from UKCCIS for schools on preventative education and managing reports of sexting

Thinkuknow: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

CEOP: https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/

Digital Awareness UK: https://www.digitalawarenessuk.com/