



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION RSE POLICY

Approving Body:	Local Academy Board
Date Approved:	May 2021
Review Date:	May 2024
Further information:	Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' 2019 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education



1. Context

The provision for SRE education at The Bolsover School is based upon the 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, and teachers published by DofE 2019. The statutory guidance sets out the need for all students to have comprehensive discreet RSE lessons targeted for the appropriate age range. All students will have access to support and information that will enable them to prepare for the complexities of adult life. This is to, prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene. It also aims to help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy and create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships

This policy will be reviewed in 2021 following the first full year of compulsory RSE. Throughout the year adjustments will be made in line with any guidance from the DfE. This will ensure that The Bolsover School will meet the statutory legislation for the teaching of RSE.

2. What is Relationships and Sex Education?

Relationships and Sex Education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in Science, RE, PE, and others are taught as part of Personal Development sessions. It gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. It also gives a comprehensive programme of RSE and provides accurate information about the complexities of understanding relationships and sexual development as well as aspects of physical and mental wellbeing. A more detailed overview can be found in 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

In any school that provides RSE, parents have the right to withdraw their children from some or all of Sex Education delivered as statutory RSE. This 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.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 1 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

3. Why is Relationships and Sex Education in schools important?

High quality RSE helps create safe school communities in which pupils can grow, learn, and develop positive, healthy behaviour for life.

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](#).

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

This is why we (DfE) have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. The key decisions on these subjects have been

informed by a thorough engagement process, including a public call for evidence that received over 23,000 responses from parents, young people, schools and experts and a public consultation where over 40,000 people contacted the Department for Education.

‘Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education’ 2019
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

Under the new Ofsted Framework, RSE will be inspected in the ‘Quality of Education’ judgement as a core curriculum subject.

4. What is high quality Relationships and Sex education?

The Bolsover School expects that Relationships and Sex Education through curriculum lessons and Personal Development sessions:

- is a partnership between home and school. With parental consultation taking place annually.
- includes the acquisition of knowledge, the development of life skills and respectful attitudes and values.
- has sufficient opportunity to cover a wide range of topics, with a strong emphasis on relationships, consent, rights, responsibilities to others, negotiation and communication skills, and accessing services.
- helps pupils understand on and offline safety, consent, violence and exploitation.
- is inclusive of difference: gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, culture, age, faith or belief, or other life experience.
- teaches pupils about the law and their rights to confidentiality even if they are under 16, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations.
- promotes equality in relationships, recognises and challenges gender inequality and reflects girls’ and boys’ different experiences and needs

5. How RSE is taught

RSE is taught through specific curriculum time, during Personal Development priority weeks, during tutorial and as part of the wider curriculum. This will include class room based activities with an identified Personal Development tutor, tutorial time and safe space discussion of topics, whilst continuing to be addressed where relevant as part of the core curriculum. These activities will be based in age appropriate groups where needed, however as a school with vertical tutoring there will also be the opportunity to explore topical issues in the day to day tutorial time.

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

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).

Use of third parties is an ongoing area of development to ensure students have access to a wide range of expertise.

6. Consultation

As part of the development of the RSE Curriculum at The Bolsover School, parents have been contacted on a yearly basis (see appendix 2) in regards to what is being taught on the RSE curriculum and given the opportunity to respond with any queries or suggestions they may have. A staff overview has been sent out allowing for staff to see the topics being covered in advance and request any support in preparation for teaching some of the more sensitive topics.

Student consultation takes place on a regular basis, with a dedicated email address set up and discussion with the student leadership team. A student panel will be set up as soon as Covid regulations allow the mixing of year groups.

Appendix 1: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		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	

Appendix 2: Parent Consultation Letters

Letter 1: 17th December, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) consultation December 2019

The Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education (RSE).

These changes will come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements.

Within the new statutory guidance, schools are expected to teach pupils about:

- **Families**
- **Respectful relationships, including friendships**
- **Online media**
- **Being safe**
- **Intimate and sexual relationships and sexual health**

This means that we will be reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- **Age**
- **Physical and emotional maturity**
- **Religious and cultural backgrounds**
- **Special educational needs and/or disabilities**

We would appreciate your feedback to help us do this.

Here's how you can help:

If you would like to make comment or contribute ideas, please feel free to email the school at itidswell@bolsover.derbyshire.sch.uk before the 17th January 2020.

Yours faithfully

I J Tidswell
Assistant Headteacher

Letter 2: July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Relationships and Sex Education at The Bolsover School

The Bolsover School is committed to providing a high quality educational experience, encouraging our young people to have an attitude of Nothing but the Best in everything they do. Our curriculum determines and underpins the whole ethos of our school, celebrating achievement and encouraging students to achieve excellence. At The Bolsover School, our personal, social and health education (Personal Development) curriculum brings together citizenship with personal well-being, whilst promoting fundamental British values ensuring our young people become responsible citizens. Our Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) provision ensures that students are equipped with the information, skills and values to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being. Although Personal Development is taught through discreet, age appropriate lessons, it also underpins regular tutor time activities, assemblies, educational visits and Curriculum Plus. It is intended that we will offer a cohesive whole-school approach which enables our young people to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society. It is delivered to all students in accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy and the requirements of the DfE *Sex and Relationships Education Guidance (2000)* and the more recent Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 which are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

At The Bolsover School, Relationships and Sex Education:

- is a partnership between home and school.
- includes the acquisition of knowledge, the development of life skills and respectful attitudes and values.
- has sufficient opportunity to cover a wide range of topics, with a strong emphasis on relationships, consent, rights, responsibilities to others, negotiation and communication skills, and accessing services.
- helps pupils understand on and offline safety, consent, violence and exploitation.
- is inclusive of difference: gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, culture, age, faith or belief, or other life experience.
- teaches pupils about the law and their rights to confidentiality even if they are under 16, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations.
- promotes equality in relationships, recognises and challenges gender inequality and reflects girls' and boys' different experiences and needs

What topics will be covered and when?

1. RSE in Key Stage 3

At this age, students are going through numerous changes both physically and mentally. The sessions will cover:

- Changes to the body, emotions and mental health during puberty
- Human fertility
- Contraception
- Personal responsibility for Health (e.g. personal hygiene, healthy habits, internet use)
- The menstrual cycle

- Sexual Relationships and an individual's health (including STIs, HIV and AIDs).
- Introduction to consent and thinking about personal boundaries and how to set them
- The effect of the media and the internet on body image

2. RSE in Key Stage 4

The sessions will address:

- Human Fertility - how males and females differ in their fertility
- The impact of the Internet and mobile technology on sexual issues and how this might be different for boys and girls.
- Pornography and the potential for it to affect their relationships and expectations
- Peer pressure and how it may affect the choices they make
- Choices and alternatives to different sexual situations.

- Consent in the context of relationships

- Self care (breast and testicle examination)
- Healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Teenage parenthood

We are working to make sure that our new curriculum reflects:

- Our students' age and maturity levels, as well as their cultural and religious backgrounds
- The values of our school community to achieve nothing but the best
- Every students' learning needs
- What pupils need to know to be healthy and safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world.

If you would like any more information, the RSE policy along with some resources is located on the schools website, there is also the DfE guidance document or you can contact Mrs Power and Miss Cartwright at the school via the websites staff contact page.