

Sevenoaks School RSE Policy

Written in September 2020 and based on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers, 2019 (updated July 2020).

To be reviewed in September 2021 by the Head of PSHE in consultation with PSHE teachers, after parent consultation and student feedback. To be approved by The Pastoral Deputy Head and Governors.

Introduction and Aims

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) has become compulsory for all schools in September 2020. At Sevenoaks School we seek to ensure that our students are well prepared and so have been fully compliant with government guidance since September 2019 so that our students are ready for the modern world.

The topics covered in RSE are wide-ranging and at times there may be understandable areas of contention. This policy is designed to outline the purpose and content of RSE, whilst ensuring that all the compulsory subject content is age and development appropriate. We aim to teach RSE sensitively and inclusively, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of students and parents and in line with the ethos of our school. We also aim to provide students with the knowledge they need of the law and the legal implications of their actions.

We believe that mental wellbeing is central to the development of young people and their ability to build positive relationships. The challenges that young people experience can be escalated by factors such as the influence of social media and that young people are at a particular risk of feeling lonely. The RSE curriculum will give them the knowledge and capability to help them make informed choices and know where to seek support if problems arise. RSE is taught in the wider context of helping to foster student's wellbeing and develop self-awareness and resilience.

RSE Policy and Curriculum Development and Review

The RSE policy and curriculum has been developed in line with statutory guidance from the DfE and with recommendations made by the PSHE Association. We have had input from experienced staff and from consultations with both parents and student groups as well as end of topic/year feedback. We aim to work in collaboration with parents building on what students learn at home and to always deliver content in a sensitive, objective and balanced manner to enable students to comprehend the range of social attitudes and behaviour in modern society. This will empower them to consider their own attitudes and actions and make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions while they are at school, at home and in adult life.

RSE Curriculum Overview

RSE is taught as part of the Relationships component of the PSHE spiral three strand curriculum – following curriculum guidance from the PSHE Association. These strands are:

Relationships – positive relationships; relationship values; forming and maintaining respectful relationships; consent; contraception and parenthood; bullying, abuse and discrimination; social influences

Health & Wellbeing - Self-Concept; mental & emotional wellbeing; healthy lifestyles and health related decisions; drugs alcohol and tobacco; managing risk and personal safety; puberty and sexual health

Living in the Wider World - learning skills; choices and pathways; work and career; employment rights and responsibilities; financial knowledge and choices; media literacy and digital resilience.

RSE topics fall under all of these themes and are taught within the PSHE Curriculum but may also be covered across the curriculum in subjects such as **Biology** and **Core Critical Thinking**.

Relationship Strand

Year Group	Content	How taught	Taught by
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships Friendships and peer pressure Dealing with Anger and Jealousy Teenage worries Emotional Health and Self Esteem Exploring Family life Tolerance – how to get along with each other 	1 x pw Structured lesson plans incorporating discussion, the use of visual and film resources - topical examples	By PSHE teachers
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blended families – including same sex parents and cis/trans gender people Gender stereotyping and discrimination Managing change and loss RSE – curiosity, peer pressure, first physical relationships and consent 	1 x pw Structured lesson plans incorporating discussion, the use of visual and film resources - topical examples. Whole year group talks	By PSHE teachers and specialist external speakers
9	RSE extended unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different types of relationship and sexualities including celibacy and asexuality Consent and contraception Myth busting, peer pressure and sex Body Image and sex in the media Sexting FGM 	1 x ppf Structured lesson plans incorporating discussion, the use of visual and film resources - topical examples. Whole year group talks	By PSHE teachers and specialist external speakers
10	RSE extended unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What you want from a relationship Romantic relationships and why we have them Sex and faith Sex and the influence of alcohol 	1 x ppf Structured lesson plans incorporating discussion, the use of visual and film resources - topical examples. Whole year group talks	By PSHE teachers and specialist external speakers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship myths and expectations Understanding what constitutes a healthy relationship Relationship values and scenarios 		
11	Pornography unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is pornography? Provocative Pictures or Pornography as defined by UK law Legal Attitudes The Great Porn Debate – should porn be included in school RSE? Porn Stereotypes Censorship and age limits Porn as Sex Education? 	1 x ppf Structured lesson plans incorporating discussion, the use of visual and film resources - topical examples. Year group talks Resources from: <i>'We Need to Talk about Pornography'</i> by Vanessa Rogers ISBN: 978-1-84905-620-5	By PSHE teachers and specialist external speakers
12 & 13	The programme is updated each year. Recent RSE presentations have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent and safety Gap years, festivals and university – keeping safe in unfamiliar circumstances LGBTQ+ awareness The impact of pornography on relationships The impact of the media in relationship expectations Gender roles in relationships Positive and negative relationships 	1 x whole year group lecture pf 6/7 talks for each year group	By external speakers

External Speakers:

All external speakers are carefully selected to complement and extend the teaching of our RSE content. Speakers are briefed on the needs and varied backgrounds of our British and International students and are asked to work within the framework of our RSE policy. School teaching staff are present throughout these talks.

Right to withdraw:

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education delivered as part of the statutory RSE. Parents must state their request in writing to the Headmaster. Parents will then be invited to discuss their request to ensure that their wishes are fully understood. We will clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum alongside the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have, eg. the emotional and social effects of being excluded as well as the likelihood of the students hearing their peer's version of what was learnt in class rather than what was delivered by the teacher.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, Sevenoaks School will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child. Requests from parents must be made annually for consideration.

However, three terms before the student turns 16 years old, they are legally able to make their own decision as to whether they wish to receive sex education. The school will make arrangements to provide the student with sex education during one of those terms and a parental request of withdrawal will not be granted.

There is no right to withdraw from relationship education.

Training:

The Head of PSHE in consultation with the Pastoral Deputy head, is responsible for the organisation and delivery of staff training. This is delivered through staff INSET, sharing of good practice and the distribution of literature and the creation of lesson resources. Recent training has been provided by the Sex Education Forum, the School of Sexuality Education and the PSHE Association.