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# RSE Policy

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Approved By:	Governors
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Applies to:	All staff, Members, Trustees and Governors
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# RSE Policy

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## Purpose

The purpose of relationships and sex education (RSE) are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place so that pupils have confidence to ask questions
- To ensure that misconceptions are addressed so that pupils know more, remember more and understand more about RSE
- 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 primary academy school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#). Whilst we do not have to follow the National Curriculum, we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science, which would include the elements of sex education, contained in the science curriculum. Gawthorpe Community Academy has chosen to follow all elements of the National Curriculum and include coverage of the key science elements, which contribute towards RSE.

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

### 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. Review – an RSE working group collated all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance. The working group used published information from DFE, PSHE Association and The Key.
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

## Definitions

We define RSE as follows:

- 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.

## Curriculum

Our curriculum plan is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary. Please look at the full SOW for more detail regarding RSE coverage within each year group.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

We recognise that sex education is not compulsory in primary schools; however, we have decided to cover some content on sex education to meet the needs of pupils and prepare them for the transition to high school. (The locality within which the school is located has a high rate of teenage pregnancy).

Primary sex education will focus on:

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

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

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

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by school staff and or from the school nursing team. When RSE lessons are delivered there are 2 members of staff present.

- 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

Sex education focuses on teaching fundamental building blocks about children's bodies and how they change including

- Puberty - Preparing boys for the changes that adolescence brings
- Puberty – Preparing girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born
- How to keep our bodies safe.

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2 of this policy and also the full RSE Scheme of Work.

The RSE 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. The RSE SOW promotes that families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures and reflects sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **The local governing body**

The local governing body will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

### **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/non-science components of RSE (see section 8 of this policy).

### **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/non-science components of RSE

### **Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity. A ground rules contract exclusive to RSE lessons is devised by each class and agreed by pupils prior to RSE delivery.

### **Parents**

We believe that parents have the primary role in teaching their children about relationships and sex education. We aim to provide a programme in partnership with our parents, ensuring all pupils receive high quality provision in line with national good practice recommendations.

It is hoped that the school curriculum and the ethos of the school complements and enhances home teaching and values, giving due regard to the value of family life and loving and stable relationships.

We provide parents with opportunities to discuss the school's policy and practice. Parents will be informed about the timing of the RSE sessions and offered an opportunity to look at resources. Parents are encouraged to discuss and ask questions.

Under the terms of the 1996 Education Act (Section 405), parents have the right to withdraw their child from part, or whole of the Sex education programme that does not form part of the national curriculum. If a parent wishes to do this they should discuss this with the Headteacher. We would encourage parents to raise, at the earliest opportunity, any concerns with the class teacher and Headteacher. The Headteacher will discuss with parents the implications of withdrawing their child from the non-statutory part of the curriculum.

Parents cannot withdraw their children from Relationships Education as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

## **Training and Monitoring**

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.

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the SLT, the Headteacher and PSHE Leader. The following monitoring will take place in a school year

- planning monitoring / work scrutiny
- pupil discussion
- observation
- work scrutiny

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems. This policy will be reviewed by headteacher in consultation with staff, pupils, parents and the local governing body.

The policy will be approved by the local governing body.

## Appendix 1: Curriculum Overview Map

### **Relationships and sex education curriculum overview map (Please see each year groups SOW plan for more detail.)**

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YEAR GROUP	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS
1 Summer 2	Keeping Clean Growing and Changing Families and Care
2 Summer 2	Differences: boys and girls Differences: male and female Naming the body parts
3 Autumn 2	Differences: male and female Personal space Family Differences
4 Summer 2	Growing and Changing Body changes and reproduction What is puberty
5 Summer 2	Talking about puberty Male and female changes Puberty and Hygiene
6 Summer 2	Puberty

Appendix 2: 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>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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>
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>

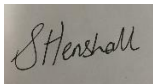
TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</li> <li>• About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it 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>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women</li> <li>• That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others</li> <li>• That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex</li> <li>• The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available</li> <li>• The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment</li> <li>• How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour</li> <li>• How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment</li> </ul>

### 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 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	
Head teacher signature	

<b>Signature Head Teacher :</b>	
<b>Signature of Chair of Governors :</b>	
<b>Date :</b>	<b>21.02.24</b>