



Relationship, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) Policy

Procedure Originator: Senior Leadership Team

Approved By: Headteacher

Date of Last Review: January 2026

Next Review Date: January 2027

Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (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
- Ensure that pupils have the knowledge they need to make informed decisions and responsible choices about relationships as they grow up;
- Empower students to access information or support, should they need it, both during their time at Brookhaven School and into adulthood.

The School wants parents and pupils to feel assured that sex education will be delivered at a level appropriate to both the age and development of pupils.

Statutory requirements

As a secondary 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.

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

Policy development

We will consult with parents, pupils, staff and the school council before making changes to our RSE policy.

We also investigated what pupils want from their RSE.

Definition

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 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, 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 they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught by form tutors within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects may be included in religious education (RE). Where appropriate, some topics may be taught in single-sex groups. Lessons will be planned taking into account students' emotional development as well as their special education needs.

Pupils will also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional – our school nurse, Tina.

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.

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. We are aware that families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers and many other structures, and our teaching will reflect 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 CEO has approved the RSE policy, and will hold the Principal to account for its implementation.

The Principal 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 8).

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 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 Principal. Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from some areas of sex education delivered as part of statutory 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 principal. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The principal will discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The School will document this process to ensure a record is kept. There may be exceptional circumstances where the principal may want to take a pupil's specific needs arising from their SEND into account when making this decision.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

RSE Jigsaw Curriculum Overview

Year/ Age	Being Me in My World	Celebrating Difference	Dreams and Goals	Healthy Me	Relationships	Changing Me
Year 7 (11-12)	Unique me, differences & conflict, my influences, gateway emotions, belonging to a group, peer pressure, child-on-child abuse, online safety, sexting, consequences, online legislation, online identity	Bullying, prejudice & discrimination (positive and negative). Equality Act, bystanders, stereotyping, challenging influences, negative behaviour and attitudes, assertiveness, importance of being included	Celebrating success, identifying goals, employment, learning from mistakes, overcoming challenges, planning skills, safe & unsafe choices, substances, gangs, county lines, control over your life, exploitation, emergency first aid	Stress and anxiety, managing physical activity and mental health, effects of substances, legal consequences, nutrition, sleep, vaccination and immunisation, importance of information on making health choices, physical illness and medicine, mindfulness	Characteristics of healthier relationships, consent, relationships and change, emotions and conflict within friendships, child-on-child abuse, rights and responsibilities, being discerning, assertiveness, sexting, social media vs real life, fake news, authenticity	Puberty changes, reproduction facts, menstrual cycle, responsibilities of parenthood, IVF, types of committed relationships, media and self-esteem, self-image, brain changes in puberty, factors affecting moods, sources of help and support
Year 8 (12-13)	Self-identity, influences, family and identity, stereotypes, personal beliefs and judgements, managing expectations, first impressions, marriage and the law, beliefs and religions, protected characteristics, online and offline identity, active listening	Positive change made by others, how positive behaviour affects feelings of wellbeing, social injustice, inequality, community cohesion and support, multiculturalism, diversity, race and religion, stereotypes, prejudice, LGBT+ bullying, hate crime, fear and emotions, stand up to bullying, the golden rule	Long-term goals, skills, qualifications, careers, money and happiness, ethics and mental wellbeing, budgeting, variation in income, positive and negative impact of money, online safety and legal responsibilities, gambling issues	Types of health, nutrition and exercise, cardiovascular health and diabetes. Risks, illegal and legal substances, dental health, skin health, vaccinations, peer pressure, teenage brain	Positive relationship with self, social media, managing a range of relationships, child-on-child abuse, personal space, online etiquette, online privacy, bullying and personal safety, social media issues and the law, coercion, unhealthy balance of power in relationships, sources of support	Types of close intimate relationships, legal status of relationships, behaviours in healthy and unhealthy romantic relationships, What makes a healthier relationship?, Attraction, love or lust?, pornography and the law, dealing with unwanted messages. Alcohol and the law
Year 9 (13-14)	Perceptions about intimate relationships, consent, sexual exploitation, peer approval, child-on-child abuse, grooming, radicalisation, county lines, risky experimentation, positive and negative self-identity, groups, influences, social media, abuse and coercion, coercive control in groups, fitting in	Protected characteristics, Equality Act, phobic and racist language, legal consequences of bullying and hate crime, sexism, ageism, positive and negative language, banter, child-on-child abuse, bullying in the workplace, direct and indirect discrimination, harassment, victimisation. Prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping	Personal strengths, health goals, SMART planning, the world of work, links between body image and mental health, non-financial dreams and goals, mental health and ill health, media manipulation, self-harm, self-esteem, stigma, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, depression	Misperceptions about young peoples' health choices, physical and psychological effects of drugs and alcohol, alcohol and the law, alcohol and drug poisoning, addiction, smoking, vaping, drug classification, supply and possession legislation, emergency situations, first aid, CPR, substances and safety, sources of advice and support, mental health first aid	Healthy relationships, power and control in intimate relationships, risk in intimate relationships, importance of sexual consent, assertiveness skills, sex and the law, pornography and stereotypes, contraception choices, age of consent, family planning, consequences of unprotected sex, STIs, support and advice services	Mental health stigma, triggers, support strategies, managing emotional changes, resilience and how to improve it, importance of sleep in relation to mental health, reflection on changes, benefits of relaxation, self expression, influences, body image

Year 10 (14-15)	<p>Human rights, societal freedom, understanding safety in UK and beyond, ending relationships safely, stages of grief, loss and bereavement, child-on-child abuse, social media and culture, use of online data, threats to online safety, online identity, assessing and managing risk, the law and social media risk and emergency contacts, positive and negative relationships, GDPR, managing screen time, sharing/enhancing of images, managing different types of relationships</p>	<p>Equality in the workplace, in society, in relationships, Equality Act, disability and hidden disability, workplace expectations, rights and responsibilities, power and control in relationships, coercive control, benefits of multi-cultural societies, equality and inequality, my health</p>	<p>Impact of physical and mental health in reaching goals, resilience, work-life balance, connections and impact of mental health. Balanced diet, vital organs, blood donation, benefits of helping others. Online profile and impact on future goals and employability</p>	<p>Improving health, mental health, sexual health, blood-borne infections, self-examination. Diet and long-term health, misuse of prescription drugs, substances and the body. Common mental health disorders, positive impact of volunteering. Common threats to health including chronic disease. Epidemics, misuse of antibiotics, organ donation, stem cells</p>	<p>Sustaining long-term relationships, intimacy, healthy relationship with self, attraction, love, lust. Relationship choices, ending relationships safely, consequences of relationships ending, pornography vs real life, relationships and the media, discernment, healthier and less healthy relationships, coercion, abuse and the law, acceptable and unacceptable behaviours</p>	<p>Impact of societal change on young people, role of media on societal change, reflection on change so far and how to manage it successfully. Decision-making, stereotypes in romantic relationships, sexual identity and risk, physical and emotional changes, family change, sources of support, personal safety, cycling, water safety, alcohol, transport</p>
Year 11 (15-16)	<p>Becoming an adult, age limits and the law, relationships and the law, consent, coercive control, child-on-child abuse, domestic abuse, honour-based violence, arranged and forced marriages, the Equality Act, county lines, possession of drugs. The law on internet use and pornography, social media concerns, sexting keeping safe, emergency situations, key advice, first aid, scenarios and consequences</p>		<p>Anxiety, solution focused thinking, sleep, relaxation, aspirations on; career, finances, budgeting, borrowing. Skills identification, realistic goals, gambling, financial pressure, debt, dream jobs, skills set, employment, education and training options. Long term relationship dreams and goals, parenting skills and challenges. Resilience, what to do when things go wrong.</p>	<p>Managing anxiety and stress, self-worth, identity, sleep, nutrition, exercise and mental health. Relationships and consent, being ready for sex, coercion, sexual harassment and violence. Puberty, hormones, fertility, testicular checks, menstrual cycle, IVF. Contraceptives and sexual health. Pregnancy choices including adoption, abortion, bringing up a baby. Health choices, mental, physical, sexual health</p>	<p>Stages of intimate relationships, positive and negative connotations of sex. Gender identity and sexuality, LGBT+ rights and protection under the Equality Act, coming out challenges, LGBT+ media stereotypes. Balance of power in relationships, FGM, breast ironing, challenging harmful social and cultural norms. Staying true to yourself in a relationship</p>	

The puzzle pieces may not be followed in the order shown and specialist teaching staff plan for the appropriate stages of knowledge depending on the individual needs of the students and the teaching group as a whole

PHSE Association Thematic Model for KS3 and 4

SECONDARY PSHE EDUCATION: LONG-TERM OVERVIEW – THEMATIC MODEL

	Autumn 1 Health & wellbeing	Autumn 2 Living in the wider world	Spring 1 Relationships	Spring 2 Health & wellbeing	Summer 1 Relationships	Summer 2 Living in the wider world
Year 7	Transition and safety Transition to secondary school and personal safety in and outside school, including first aid	Developing skills and aspirations Careers, teamwork and enterprise skills, and raising aspirations	Diversity Diversity, prejudice, and bullying	Health and puberty Healthy routines, influences on health, puberty, unwanted contact, and FGM	Building relationships Self-worth, romance and friendships (including online) and relationship boundaries	Financial decision making Saving, borrowing, budgeting and making financial choices
Year 8	Drugs and alcohol Alcohol and drug misuse and pressures relating to drug use	Community and careers Equality of opportunity in careers and life choices, and different types and patterns of work	Discrimination Discrimination in all its forms, including: racism, religious discrimination, disability, discrimination, sexism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia	Emotional wellbeing Mental health and emotional wellbeing, including body image and coping strategies	Identity and relationships Gender identity, sexual orientation, consent, 'sexting' and an introduction to contraception	Digital literacy Online safety, digital literacy, media reliability, and gambling hooks
Year 9	Peer influence, substance use and gangs Healthy and unhealthy friendships, assertiveness, substance misuse, and gang exploitation	Setting goals Learning strengths, career options and goal setting as part of the GCSE options process	Respectful relationships Families and parenting, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and relationship changes	Healthy lifestyle Diet, exercise, lifestyle balance and healthy choices, and first aid	Intimate relationships Relationships and sex education including consent, contraception, the risks of STIs, and attitudes to pornography	Employability skills Employability and online presence
Year 10	Mental health Mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding health, including during periods of transition or change	Financial decision making The impact of financial decisions, debt, gambling and the impact of advertising on financial choices	Healthy relationships Relationships and sex expectations, pleasure and challenges, including the impact of the media and pornography	Exploring influence The influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media	Addressing extremism and radicalisation Communities, belonging and challenging extremism	Work experience Preparation for and evaluation of work experience and readiness for work
Year 11	Building for the future Self-efficacy, stress management, and future opportunities	Next steps Application processes, and skills for further education, employment and career progression	Communication in relationships Personal values, assertive communication (including in relation to contraception and sexual health), relationship challenges and abuse	Independence Responsible health choices, and safety in independent contexts	Families Different families and parental responsibilities, pregnancy, marriage and forced marriage and changing relationships	

The thematic strands may not be followed in the order shown and specialist teaching staff plan for the appropriate stages of knowledge depending on the individual needs of the students and the teaching group as a whole

PHSE Planning framework for SEND

HOW THE PSHE EDUCATION PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR PUPILS WITH SEND IS ORGANISED

The Planning Framework is organised into six sections:

1. **Self-Awareness** (Me, who I am, my likes, dislikes, strengths and interests)
2. **Self-care, Support and Safety** (Looking after myself and keeping safe; aspects of Relationships and Sex Education.)
3. **Managing Feelings** (Understanding feelings, and that how I feel and how others feel affects choices and behaviour; aspects of Relationships and Sex Education)
4. **Changing and Growing** (How I and others are changing; new opportunities and responsibilities; aspects of Relationships and Sex Education)
5. **Healthy Lifestyles** (Being and keeping healthy, physically and mentally)
6. **The World I Live In** (Living confidently in the wider world)

Each of the six sections is subdivided into topic areas, as set out below. Please note that there is overlap between the topic areas and sections, for example, mental health and online safety are explicitly covered in some topic areas but are also integrated throughout all six sections where appropriate.

Section	Key stage 1 and 2 Topic areas	Key stage 3 and 4 Topic areas
Self-Awareness	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Things we are good at</i>2. <i>Kind and unkind behaviours</i>3. <i>Playing and working together</i>4. <i>People who are special to us</i>5. <i>Getting on with others</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Personal strengths</i>2. <i>Skills for learning</i>3. <i>Prejudice and discrimination</i>4. <i>Managing pressure</i>
Self-Care, Support and Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Taking care of ourselves</i>2. <i>Keeping safe</i>3. <i>Trust</i>4. <i>Keeping safe online</i>5. <i>Public and Private</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Feeling unwell</i>2. <i>Feeling frightened/worried</i>3. <i>Accidents and risk</i>4. <i>Keeping safe online</i>5. <i>Emergency situations</i>6. <i>Public and private</i>7. <i>Gambling</i>

Managing Feelings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and expressing feelings Managing strong feelings 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Self-esteem and unkind comments Strong feelings Romantic feelings and sexual attraction
Changing and Growing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Baby to adult Changes at puberty Dealing with touch Different types of relationships 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Puberty Friendship Healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviour Intimate relationships, consent and contraception Long-term relationships/parenthood
Healthy Lifestyles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Eating Taking care of physical health Keeping well 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elements of a healthy lifestyles Mental wellbeing Physical activity Healthy eating Body image Medicinal drugs Drugs, alcohol & tobacco
The World I Live In	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Respecting differences between people Jobs people do Rules and laws Taking care of the environment Belonging to a community 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity/rights and responsibilities Managing online information Taking care of the environment Preparing for adulthood Managing Finances

More detail about the content of these units is available upon request.

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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<p>That there are different types of committed, stable relationships.</p> <p>How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting.</p> <p>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</p>
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<p>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.</p> <p>Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.</p> <p>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 behavior or encourage prejudice)</p> <p>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,</p> <p>including people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs</p> <p>About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help.</p> <p>That some types of behavior within relationships are criminal, including violent behavior and coercive control</p> <p>What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable</p> <p>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</p>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online and media	<p>Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behavior apply in all contexts, including online</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them</p> <p>What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online.</p> <p>The impact of viewing harmful content</p> <p>That specifically sexually explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviors, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners.</p> <p>That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail.</p> <p>How information and data is generated, collected, shared, and used online</p>
Being safe	<p>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.</p> <p>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)</p>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex</p> <p>The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available</p> <p>The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment</p> <p>How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour</p> <p>How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment</p>

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			

