



Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) Policy

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Statutory policy:		Yes	
Date:	Version	Reason for change	Source
December 2025	V3.0	Review	DfE

To be read alongside all relevant Matrix Academy Trust policies and procedures

1. AIMS

1.1 The aims of this policy is to provide a working document of clear guidance to Trustees, staff, parents/carers and pupils on the delivery of relationships and sex education (RSHE) at Trust Schools and to ensure pupils learn about:

Relationship and Sexual health including:

- Different types of relationships, including friendships, family relationships, intimate relationships, dealing with strangers, marriage or other type of committed relationship.
- How to recognise, understand and build healthy, nurturing relationships, including self-respect and respect for others, commitment, tolerance, boundaries and consent, and how to manage conflict, and also how to recognise unhealthy relationships.
- How relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health.
- Healthy relationships and safety online.
- Factual knowledge, and the law around sex, sexual health and sexual orientation, gender identity, set firmly within the context of relationships.
- Grooming, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour.
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), honour based violence and forced marriage.

Physical health and mental wellbeing including:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- First Aid
- Changing adolescent body

1.2 Internet safety and the rules and principles for keeping safe online will be taught throughout all aspects of RSHE.

1.3 The aims above are in line with the core expectations that we promote to all pupils:

- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Show respect for all and display high levels of commitment to being the best you can be.
- To encourage and promote a 'telling school ethos'.

1.4 The content will be taught in an age appropriate and developmentally appropriate way. Topics will be taught sensitively and inclusively, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of pupils and parents while always with the aim of providing pupils with the knowledge they need of the law.

- 1.5 Teaching will build on the knowledge about relationships and sexual health as well as physical health and wellbeing acquired at primary school (Appendix 1) and develop further pupils' understanding of health, with an increased focus on risk areas such as drugs and alcohol, as well as introducing knowledge about intimate relationships and sex (Appendix 2).
- 1.6 Menstruation: Pupils will be taught key facts about the menstrual cycle. In addition to curriculum content, adequate arrangements will be made to help girls prepare for and manage menstruation, including requests for menstrual products.
- 1.7 Teaching about mental well-being is central and the content delivered will give pupils the knowledge and capability to take care of themselves and receive support if problems arise.
- 1.8 The content will support the wider work of school in helping to foster pupil well-being and develop resilience and character that we know are fundamental to pupils being happy, successful and productive members of society

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 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.

3. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Relationships Education is compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools. Health Education is compulsory in all state-funded schools.
- 3.2 The current statutory guidance can be found [here](#)

4. DEFINITION

- 4.1 RSHE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSHE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

4.2 RSHE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME

5.1 At Matrix Academy Trust we acknowledged that high-quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate teaching can help pupils prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life as well as promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils both at school and in society.

5.2 RSHE will be set in the context of a wider whole-school approach to supporting pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school. The curriculum on relationships and sex will complement, and be supported by, the school's wider policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, SEND, e-safety, anti-bullying and safeguarding.

5.3 RSHE is taught within the school's personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the science curriculum.

5.4 Science, computing and physical education will complement some of the topics covered in Relationship Education, RSE and Health Education.

5.5 Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions
- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness
- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision-making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work

These skills will also be complimented within the teaching of Trust Values. Our whole school oracy protocols support pupils to speak clearly and confidently, expressing and valuing their own voices as well as those of others. Reading materials will also be used to deepen discussion and understanding of issue raised in the teaching of RSHE.

5.6 Anatomical terms and language will be used when teaching RSHE.

6. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

- 6.1 We will use RSHE education as a way to address diversity issues and to ensure equality for all by addressing contextual issues.
- 6.2 RSHE delivery is designed to comply with the Equality Act 2010 and will include LGBT+ content in the programme. This will include talking about LGBT+ families and teaching about sexual orientation and gender identity.
- 6.3 The religious background of all pupils will be taken into account when planning teaching and comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, under which religion or belief are amongst the protected characteristics.
- 6.4 Teaching will reflect the law (including the Equality Act 2010) as it applies to relationships, so that pupils clearly understand what the law allows and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of decisions they make.
- 6.5 Under the Equality Act, the school will not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnerships, or sexual orientation.

7. PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

- 7.1 Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education will be accessible for all pupils.
- 7.2 High quality teaching is differentiated and personalised. This is the starting point to ensure accessibility for all pupils.
- 7.3 The school will also be mindful of the preparing for adulthood outcomes as set out in the SEND code of practice, when preparing these subjects for pupils with SEND.
- 7.4 The school is aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their SEND. Relationships Education can also be a priority for some pupils. For example pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs or learning disabilities. For some pupils there may be a need to tailor content and teaching to meeting the specific needs of children at different developmental stages.

8. PARENTS' RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

- 8.1 Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of RSHE (intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health), 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 should make arrangements to provide the

child with sex education during one of those terms. Parents cannot withdraw their child from Relationships or Health Education.

8.2 Parents can identify when RSE is being covered by referring to the overviews on the school's website. (Found in appendix 3 of this document).

8.3 Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing and addressed to the Headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's file. The Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Appropriate alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE.

8.4 There is no right to withdraw from Relationships or Health Education.

9. WORKING WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES

9.1 To support and enhance the delivery of RSHE, Trust Schools works with external partners to draw on specialist knowledge and implement different ways of engaging with young people.

9.2 Where external agencies are used, the school will ensure that all the necessary checks are completed of the visiting organisation and any visitors linked to the agency.

9.3 The schools will work with external agencies to ensure that the content delivered is age-appropriate and accessible for all pupils. Any materials that are used as part of the delivery must be approved by the school in advance of the session.

9.4 The schools will ensure that the visitor is aware of aspects of confidentiality and understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with the school's Safeguarding Policy.

10. SAFEGUARDING, REPORTS OF ABUSE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

10.1 The schools recognise that at the heart of RSHE, the focus is on keeping children safe, and acknowledges the significant role schools have in preventative education. Our RSHE and PSHE provision takes account of our local context and is responsive to the needs our pupils within the context of our community.

10.2 We will allow children an open forum to discuss potentially sensitive issues. Such discussions can lead to increased safeguarding reports. Children will be made aware of the processes to enable them to raise their concerns or make a report and how any report will be handled. This will also include processes when they have a concern about a peer or friend.

10.3 In line with the document Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, 2020), all staff are aware of what to do if a pupil tells them that they are being abused or neglected. Staff are also aware of the need to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality. This means only involving those that need to be involved, such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Children's Services.

10.4 A member of staff will never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this is not in the best interests of the child.

11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

11.1 The delivery of RSHE is monitored by the school's Leadership team, Heads of House and the school's PSHE Lead through the school's monitoring programme of curriculum reviews, learning walks, PSHE working walls, lesson observation and pupil voice.

11.2 Pupils' development in RSHE is monitored by pupil surveys, self-evaluations, pop quizzes, written work and discussions.

11.3 RSHE is not formally assessed.

12 INFORMING AND INVOLVING PARENTS, STAFF AND PUPILS

12.1 Parents are the primary educators of their children and their role in education concerning relationships and sexuality is seen by the school as very important. Relevant sections of this RSHE policy will be included in the school's *Prospectus* booklet, published annually in August.

12.2 This policy has been designed in consultation with Parent Advisory Groups and via a Microsoft parental questionnaire to representatives and the views expressed by parents will be taken into account when reviewing the policy. A copy of this policy will be made available on the school's website as well as an overview of topics covered by each year group.

12.3 Pupils' views are gathered through school surveys and the various committees for example school Council, Mental Health Ambassadors, Digital Leaders and the Anti-bullying Champions that the school operates, identifying needs.

12.4 All staff play an important role in supporting the delivery and review of RSHE.

By the end of primary school pupils will have been taught about **relationships and sexual health**:

<p>Families and people who care for me</p>	<p>Pupils should know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability. • 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. • 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. • 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. • That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong. • How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.
<p>Caring friendships</p>	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties. • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded. • 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. • 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.
Respectful relationships	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships. • The conventions of courtesy and manners. • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness. • 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. • 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. • What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.
Online relationships	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not. • 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. • The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them. • How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met. • How information and data is shared and used online
Being safe	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context). • 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. • That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact. • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know. • How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult. • How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so. • Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.
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By the end of primary school pupils will have been taught about **physical health and mental wellbeing:**

Mental Wellbeing	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health. • That there is a normal range of emotions (e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, nervousness) and scale of emotions that all humans experience in relation to different experiences and situations. • How to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and other's feelings. • How to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate • The benefits of physical exercise, time out doors, community participation, voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness. • Simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends, and family and the benefits of hobbies and interests. • Isolation and loneliness can affect children and that it is very important for children to discuss their feelings with an adult and seek support. • That bullying (including cyber bullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing. • Where and how to seek support (including reconsidering the triggers for seeking support), including whom in school they should speak to if
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	<p>they are worried about their own or someone else's mental wellbeing or ability to control their emotions (including issues arising online).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is common for people to experience mental ill health. For many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.
Internet safety and harms	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That for most people the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits. • About the benefits of rationing time spent online, the risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices and the impact of positive and negative content online on their own and other's mental and physical wellbeing. • How to consider the effect of their online actions on others and know how to recognise and display respectful behaviour online and the importance of keeping personal information private. • Why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age restricted. • That the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have negative impact on mental health. • How to be a discerning consumer of information online including understanding that information, including that from search engines, is ranked, selected and targeted. • Where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.
Physical health and fitness	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle • The importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this; for example walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile or other form of regular, vigorous exercise. • The risks associated with an inactive lifestyle (including obesity)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How and when to seek support including which adults to speak to in school if they are worried about their health.
Healthy eating	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What constituted a healthy diet (including understanding calories and other nutritional content) The principles of planning and preparing healthy meals. The characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating (including, for example, obesity and tooth decay) and other behaviours (e.g. the impact of alcohol on diet or health).
Drugs, alcohol and tobacco	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug taking.
Health and prevention	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss, or unexplained changes to the body About safe and unsafe exposure to the sun and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer. The importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn. About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist. About personal hygiene and germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of hand washing. The facts and science relating to allergies, immunisation and vaccination.
Basic first aid	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concepts of basic first aid, for example, dealing with common injuries including head injuries.
Changing adolescent body	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes. • About menstrual wellbeing including the key facts about the menstrual cycle.

By the end of secondary school:

Schools should continue to develop knowledge on topics specified for primary as required and, in addition, cover the following content about **relationships and sex education** by the end of secondary:

<p>Families</p>	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Respectful relationships, including friendships</p>	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including: trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the

	<p>management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. This includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Online and media	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, including sexual health	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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 and menopause.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 around pregnancy including miscarriage. • 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.
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Schools should continue to develop knowledge on topics specified for primary as required and, in addition, cover the following content about **physical health and mental wellbeing** by the end of secondary:

Mental wellbeing	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to talk about their emotions accurately and sensitively, using appropriate vocabulary. • that happiness is linked to being connected to others. • how to recognise the early signs of mental wellbeing concerns. • common types of mental ill health (e.g. anxiety and depression). • how to critically evaluate when something they do or are involved
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	<p>in has a positive or negative effect on their own or others' mental health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the benefits and importance of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation and voluntary and service-based activities on mental wellbeing and happiness.
Internet Safety and Harms	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The similarities and differences between the online world and the physical world, including: the impact of unhealthy or obsessive comparison with others online (including through setting unrealistic expectations for body image). How people may curate a specific image of their life online, over-reliance on online relationships including social media, The risks related to online gambling including the accumulation of debt How advertising and information is targeted at them and how to be a discerning consumer of information online. How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours.
Physical health and fitness	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the positive associations between physical activity and promotion of mental wellbeing, including as an approach to combat stress. the characteristics and evidence of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, maintaining a healthy weight, including the links between an inactive lifestyle and ill health, including cancer and cardiovascular ill-health. about the science relating to blood, organ and stem cell donation.
Healthy eating	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to maintain healthy eating and the links between a poor diet and health risks, including tooth decay and cancer.
Drugs, alcohol and tobacco	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use, and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions. the law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood. • the physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency. • awareness of the dangers of drugs which are prescribed but still present serious health risks. • the facts about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer), the benefits of quitting and how to access support to do so.
Health and prevention	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about personal hygiene, germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread, treatment and prevention of infection, and about antibiotics. • about dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including healthy eating and regular check-ups at the dentist. • (late secondary) the benefits of regular self-examination and screening. • the facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination. • the importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and how a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
Basic first aid	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic treatment for common injuries. • life-saving skills, including how to administer CPR. • the purpose of defibrillators and when one might be needed.
Changing adolescent body	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key facts about puberty, the changing adolescent body and menstrual wellbeing. • the main changes which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health.

Appendix 3 PSHE/RSE curriculum at Smestow Academy



Personal Development Curriculum Map: 2025/2026

Themes:	Life Beyond School	Health and Wellbeing	Staying Safe Online and Offline	Relationships and Sex Education	Celebrating Diversity and Equality	Rights, Responsibilities and British Values
Year 7	<u>Managing Change</u> 1. What is PSHE? 2. Getting to Know People 3. What is a Community? 4. Careers and Your Future 5. Sleep and Relaxation 6. Financial Education 7. Transition Points in You Nationwide: Economic Literacy	<u>Body Development</u> 1. Introduction to Puberty 2. Personal Hygiene 3. Assertiveness, Consent & Hormones 4. Self-Esteem 5. Tooth Decay & Dental Hygiene Dorcas: Introduction to FGM	<u>Staying Safe</u> 1. Avoiding Gangs & Criminal Behaviour 2. Staying Safe Online 3. Online Gaming, Grooming & Addiction 4. Risks of: Alcohol, Nicotine & Smoking, E-Cigs, Vaping and Shisha 5. Energy Drinks & Caffeine 6. Knife Crime and Safety Smashed Live!: Dangers of Alcohol	<u>Friends, Respect and Relationships</u> 1. Consent and Boundaries 2. Respect and Relationships 3. What Makes a Good Friend? 4. Friendships & Online Relationships 5. Being Positive 6. Pressure, Influence and Friends 7. What Does it Mean to be a Man Today?	<u>Celebrating Difference</u> 1. What is your Identity? 2. Multicultural Britain 3. Importance of Being Kind 4. Breaking Down Stereotypes 5. Learning Disabilities 6. Prejudice and Discrimination 7. Challenging Islamophobia	<u>Politics and Parliament</u> 1. Why is Politics Important? 2. How is our Country Run? 3. The Role of the Prime Minister 4. The Monarchy and King Charles III 5. Politics, Debates and Parliament 6. Elections and Campaigning 7. Creating a Political Party Warinder Juss: My Local MP
Year 8	<u>Proud to be Me!</u> 1. Employability & Enterprise Skills 2. Proud to be Me 3. Careers & Aspiration 4. Self Esteem & Media 5. The Importance of Happiness 6. What Makes me Angry? 7. Exploring Careers Nationwide: Economic Literacy Channel 4: Careers Workshops	<u>Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing</u> 1. Health & Wellbeing 2. What is Mental Health? 3. Positive Body Image 4. Child Abuse 5. Types of Bullying 6. Healthy Eating and Cholesterol 7. Stress Management	<u>Dangerous Society Online and Offline</u> 1. County Lines & Gangs 2. County Lines – Who is at Risk? 3. Substance Misuse and Cyber-Bullying 4. The risks of grooming 5. Alcohol Safety Education 6. Child Exploitation and Online Protection Alison: Knife Crime	<u>Identity and Relationships</u> 1. Introduction to Relationships 2. Being Yourself & Self-Love 3. Healthy Respectful Relationships 4. What is Love? 5. Dealing with Conflict 6. Sexual Orientation School Nurse: Recap Puberty and Contraception	<u>Equality and Diversity</u> 1. Equality Act & Protected Characteristics 2. LGBTQ+ What is it? 3. Rights Across the World 4. Gender Equality 5. Ableism and Disability Discrimination 6. Removing Barriers & Equality for All 7. Racism & Discrimination	<u>Law, Crime and Society</u> 1. Desert Island living 2. Building community spirit 3. Decision making & constitution. 4. Criminals law & society 5. Law making process in the UK. 6. Prisons, reform & punishment PC Mike Wentworth: Law, Crime & Society
Year 9	<u>Essential Life Skills:</u> 1. Resilience: Failure to Success 2. Assertiveness 3. Saving and Managing Money 4. Labour Market Information 5. Finance, Budgeting & Employment 6. Social media & Online Stress	<u>Building Confidence and Coping with Change:</u> 1. How Self-Esteem Changes 2. Homophobic, Bi-phobic and Transphobic (HBT) Bullying 3. Dealing with Grief and Loss 4. Media and Airbrushing 5. Cancer Prevention & Healthy Lifestyles	<u>Raising Awareness of Legal and Illegal Drugs</u> 1. What is a Drug? 2. Different Types of Addictions 3. Cannabis Products 4. Drug Classifications 5. Party Drugs & Illegal Drugs 6. Exploring Illegal Drugs 7. Volatile Substance Abuse	<u>Sex, The Law and Consent</u> 1. Relationships & Partners 2. Domestic Abuse & Domestic Violence 3. Introduction to Sexual Relationships 4. What if I don't want to? (Issues relating to consent) 5. Raising awareness of STI's? 6. Sexual Harassment	<u>Exploring World Issues:</u> 1. International Organisations 2. Peace, War and Conflict 3. Human Rights During War 4. Aid & Supporting Countries 5. Striking & Trade Unionism 6. Women's Rights & Equality 7. Fairtrade & Free-Trade	<u>Prevent</u> 1. Conspiracy Theories & Narratives 2. Extremism in all its Forms 3. What is Terrorism? 4. War & Conflict 5. The Radicalisation Process 6. Counter Terrorism 7. Anti-Semitism in the UK

	Nationwide: Economic Literacy I Can Save A Life: First Aid Training		Alison: Knife Crime	School Nurse: Contraception Dorcas: FGM Saltmine: "Switch Up!"		Wolverhampton City Council: PREVENT Ambassadors
Year 10	<u>Rights and Responsibilities</u> 1. Instagram & TikTok Generation 2. Targeted Advertising 3. What is Marriage? 4. Rights & Responsibilities Consumer Rights 5. Employment Rights 6. Exploring a Pay check Channel 4: Careers Workshops	<u>Mental Health and Wellbeing</u> 1. Child Sexual Abuse (CSE) 2. Screen Time 3. Common Types of Mental Health 4. Self-Harm 5. Suicidal Thoughts & Feelings 6. Promoting Emotional Wellbeing Saltmine: "Filters"	<u>Violence, Crime and Seeking Safety</u> 1. Honour Based Violence 2. Forced Marriages & Breast Ironing 3. Online Gambling 4. Social Media Validation 5. Modern Day Slavery 6. Keeping Your Data Safe 7. Causes of Knife Crime Alison: Knife Crime Nationwide: Economic Literacy	<u>Exploring Relationships</u> 1. What is FGM? Raising awareness of FGM 2. Sexting 3. Online Pornography (Myths vs Reality) 4. Pornography and its Impact on Society 5. Unhealthy Relationships & Sexual Violence 6. Sexualisation in the Media School Nurse: STIs and Consent	<u>Religious Attitudes to Relationships & Families</u> 1. Religious teachings about human sexuality 2. Religious teachings about contraception 3. Religious teachings about abortion 4. Religious teachings about marriage 5. Religious teachings about divorce and remarriage 6. Religious teachings about families	<u>Exploring British Values</u> 1. Critical Thinking & Fake News 2. Hate Crime in the UK 3. Exploring British Values 4. British Values & Identity 5. Mutual Respect and Tolerance 6. Individual Liberty 7. What are Human Rights? 8. Democracy Explored Wolverhampton City Council: PREVENT Ambassadors
Year 11	<u>Your Future:</u> 1. Screen Addiction & Studying 2. Post 16 options/pathways 3. Exam Stress & Anxiety 4. Social Media Vs Real Life 5. Writing a CV 6. Writing a Personal Statement 7. Careers: Meeting Employers Channel 4: Careers Workshops	<u>Adult Health and Looking After Yourself</u> 1. Organ & Blood Donation 2. Teenage Pregnancy Choices 3. Abortion (Morals, Laws and Ethics) 4. Parenthood for Teenagers 5. Love & Abuse 6. Careers: Planning for the Future 7. Careers: Personal Branding School Nurse: Breast and Testicular Cancer	<u>Financial Management:</u> 1. Banks and Building Societies 2. Budgeting 3. Debt and Saving 4. Financial Decisions/ Risk 5. Support for Financial Exploitation 6. Careers: Interview Preparation Alison: Knife Crime Nationwide: Economic Literacy	<u>Sexual Health:</u> 1. Peer on Peer Bullying 2. Fertility and What Impacts it 3. Alcohol, Parties & Bad Choices 4. Importance of Sexual Health 5. Revisiting Contraception 6. Respect, Love & Relationships	<u>Revision and Assessments</u>	<u>Revision and Assessments</u>
Year 12	<u>Life Beyond School</u> <u>Personal Finance</u> 1. Taxes and the UK 2. Banks, Building Societies and Money 3. Types of Unemployment (P45 and P60) 4. Different types of debt	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> 1. Exploring Health and Wellbeing 2. Cholesterol Levels and Healthy Consumption 3. Vaccinations and Immunity 4. Healthy Eating Habits	<u>Staying Safe Online and Offline</u> <u>Drugs and Risks</u> 1. Alcohol Safety 2. Substance Misuse 3. Drugs and their Effects 4. Synthetic Cannabinoids 5. England and Wales drug Classifications 6. LSD Explored	<u>Relationships and Sex Education</u> <u>Relationships and Sex Education</u> 1. Pornography and its impact on society 2. Fertility 3. Respect and Relationships 4. Importance of Sexual Health	<u>Celebrating Diversity and Equality</u> <u>World Religions</u> 1. Christian Values and Practices 2. Jewish Values and Practices 3. Muslim Values and Practices	<u>Rights, Responsibilities and British Values</u> <u>Career Management</u> 1. University vs. World of Work 2. Writing a Cover Letter 3. UCAS Process 4. Student Finance 5. Alternatives to University

	5. Income and State Benefits 6. Role of Trade Unions and Employment Rights 7. Types of Insurance and Assurance UCAS: Student Finance Midlands Metro Alliance: Careers Talk Channel 4: Careers Workshops	5. Dental Hygiene and Tooth Decay 6. Exploring Different Eating Disorders 7. Managing stress in daily situations and school Reflexions: Staying Mentally Healthy	7. MDMA and Ecstasy Explored Alison: Knife Crime Nationwide: Economic Literacy	5. Revisiting Contraception 6. Revisiting STI's 7. Respect and Relationships 8. Menstrual Charting and your Body School Nurse: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding	4. Buddhist Values and Practices 5. Hindu Values and Practices 6. Sikh Values and Practices	6. Confidentiality in the Workplace 7. Budgeting at University R Osborne: 6th Form Finance Talk
Year 13	<u>Personal Finance</u> 1. Payment Methods 2. Budgeting 3. Borrowing Money and Risks 4. Value for Money and Making It 5. Understanding Foreign Currency 6. Supermarket Inflation 7. Calculating Foreign Exchange Rates UCAS: Student Finance Midlands Metro Alliance: Careers Talk Channel 4: Careers Workshops	<u>Positive Wellbeing</u> 1. Dealing with Depression 2. Stress and Performance 3. Dealing with Anxiety 4. Fears and Anxiety 5. Sleep Hygiene and Mental Health 6. Promoting Emotional Wellbeing 7. Resilience and Growing Up Reflexions: Staying Mentally Healthy	<u>Diversity, Safety and Health</u> 1. LGBT Equality in the UK 2. Toxic Masculinity 3. Carrying a Knife- Gangs 4. Dealing with my Anger 5. What is cancer? 6. Medical Ethics Stem Cells and Blood Donation Alison: Knife Crime Nationwide: Economic Literacy	<u>Emotional Wellbeing</u> 1. Nature Nurture Mental Health 2. Looking after yourself 3. Physical Health 4. Improving Body Image 5. Stress Management Part 1 6. Stress Management Part 2	<u>Revision and Assessment</u>	<u>Revision and Assessment</u>

The school offers a personal development curriculum which follows the requirements of relationships, sex and health education as stipulated by the Department of Education. A link to the guidance for parents and carers can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f2c2b988fa8f57ac88dc996/RSE_secondary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

External Speakers (highlighted in yellow)

The school offers a personal development curriculum that incorporates a range of external speakers who enrich our curriculum. The intended speakers are shown on the curriculum plan and communication sent home in advance of the session being delivered. This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change. We are constantly looking to increase the offer of external speakers and will update this curriculum overview accordingly.