



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Policy Lead:	Assistant Headteacher (EA)
Last Review Date:	September 2025
Next Review Date:	September 2027
Approval needed by:	Governing Body

Revisions Log

Date	Pages/Whole Document	Description of Change	Origin of Change (e.g. Routine Update, request for Review)
30.7.22	5	Change to the curriculum map	Review of PSCHC curriculum
30.7.22	4	Staffing update	New timetable
29.8.23	4 & 5	Staffing update	New timetable
28.5.24	4 & 5	Staffing update	New timetable
28.5.24	6	Curriculum update	Routine update
1.9.25	whole	Refine and reword	Routine update

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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a safe and supportive framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Equip pupils with accurate knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about relationships and sexual health
- Prepare pupils for the physical and emotional changes of puberty, and develop understanding of sexual development, reproductive health, and the importance of hygiene
- Promote respect, self-worth, confidence, resilience and empathy in pupils
- Create a positive and inclusive culture around issues of sexuality, family life and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves, their bodies, and their emotions confidently

2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy school, we must provide RSE to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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

At The Oaks Academy, we deliver RSE in line with statutory guidance, ensuring it is factual, age-appropriate, inclusive, and responsive to pupils' needs.

3. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils. It includes learning about:

- Different types of relationships (including friendships, family, and intimate relationships)
- Sexual health, consent, and the law
- Online safety, media influences, and the impact of pornography
- Respect for diversity and the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010
- Mental wellbeing and healthy lifestyles
- Personal identity and values

RSE combines the sharing of factual information with opportunities to explore attitudes, values, and personal experiences.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

4. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out in Appendix 1, but may be adapted in response to emerging needs, pupil feedback, or safeguarding concerns.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils, staff, and governors, taking into account the age, maturity, backgrounds and beliefs of pupils. Lessons will be delivered in a way that ensures all pupils feel safe, respected, and able to ask questions.

Where pupils raise questions outside the planned scope of the curriculum, teachers will respond in an appropriate, factual and safeguarding-informed way to ensure pupils are not left to seek answers from unreliable sources online

5. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the **Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)** curriculum. Biological aspects are taught within science, while moral and ethical perspectives may be included in religious education (RE).

RSE equips pupils with the knowledge they need to make safe, respectful and healthy choices in their lives, covering:

- Families and different types of relationships
- Respectful relationships, including friendships and managing conflict
- Online behaviour, digital resilience, and media influences
- The law relating to consent, sexual behaviour, and safeguarding
- Being safe, including recognising unhealthy or abusive relationships
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health and contraception
- The impact of peer pressure, pornography, and risky behaviours

These topics are taught in the context of family life and respect for diversity, ensuring no child is stigmatised based on home circumstances. Family life is acknowledged in its many forms, including single-parent families, LGBT+ parents, blended families, adoptive and foster carers, and kinship care. Sensitivity is shown to pupils with different care arrangements (such as looked after children or young carers).

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The governing board

- Ensures RSE is delivered in line with statutory guidance
- Holds the headteacher to account for policy implementation

6.2 The headteacher

- Ensures RSE is taught consistently across the school
- Manages requests to withdraw pupils from [non-statutory / non-science] elements of RSE (see section 7)

6.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a safe, inclusive and sensitive manner
- Modelling positive attitudes towards relationships and respect
- Monitoring pupil progress and understanding
- Adapting lessons to respond to the needs of individuals
- Responding appropriately to parental withdrawal requests in line with the law

- Staff cannot opt out of teaching RSE. Any concerns should be discussed with the headteacher.

The following members of staff teach RSE within our school:

Year 7

Form Name	Staff
7 Newton	C Grimes
7 Cloughton	H Keeling & S Weaver
7 Gresley	M Moss
7 Stephenson	R Lloyd- Griffiths
7 Hardwicke	L Kirk-Porter

Year 8

Form Name	Staff
8 Newton	E Hedrrix
8 Cloughton	C Howlet & S Akram
8 Gresley	A Carlisle & R Broadhurst
8 Stephenson	J French & K Williams
8 Hardwicke	A Tarpey

Year 9

Form Name	Staff
9 Newton	N Slatford & M Gherghiceanu
9 Cloughton	M Finney
9 Gresley	J Clegg
9 Stephenson	C Crump
9 Hardwicke	J Chatterton J Austin

Year 10

Form Name	Staff
10 Newton	M Hardy
10 Cloughton	D Murphy
10 Gresley	R Broadhurst
10 Stephenson	F Phillips
10 Hardwicke	S Akram

Year 11

Year 11 Form	Staff
11 Webb	J Austin
11 Newton	S Heyes
11 Cloughton	M Gherghiceanu
11 Gresley	S Bains
11 Stephenson	K Williams
11 Hardwick	S Weaver

6.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Engage fully in RSE lessons
- Show respect and sensitivity when discussing RSE topics
- Take responsibility for their own learning and wellbeing

7. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education within RSE (but not from relationships or health education, or from statutory elements taught in science). This right applies up until three terms before the child's 16th birthday. At this point, if the young person wishes to receive sex education, the school will make arrangements for them to do so.

Requests for withdrawal must be made in writing to the headteacher using the form in Appendix 2.

The headteacher will discuss withdrawal requests with parents and record the outcome. Pupils withdrawn will be provided with alternative, appropriate work

8: Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Emily Abberley (Assistant Head: Community & Personal Development) and Joanne McKreth (Deputy Headteacher: Quality of Education). This will be conducted via;

- Learning walks
- Work scrutiny
- Pupil and staff voice
- Curriculum review meetings

Pupils' development in RSE is assessed by teachers as part of the school's wider assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher every **two years** and approved by the Governing Body.

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Appendix 1 - Curriculum Map

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
PSCHE lessons				
Consent and boundaries Respect & boundaries What makes a good friend Friendships & Managing them Being positive & Respectful Pressure & Influence What does it mean to be a man Staying safe online Fortnite grooming and online gaming	Introduction to RSE Healthy Relationships Dealing with conflict Gender Identity Introduction to contraception LGBT what is it? LGBT homophobia in schools Supporting those that are LGBT Challenging homophobia Transphobia Coming out Online safety – cyber bullying Grooming boys and girls Child exploitation and online protection	Sexual consent and the law FGM and the law Delaying sexual activity Why have sex? Why have sex – part 2 What are STIs Contraception Contraception – part 2 Exploring the realities of contraception Sexual harassment and stalking HIV and AIDS	Porn life V Real Life Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence Forced marriages	Peer on Peer bullying Fertility & what impacts it Alcohol and bad choices Importance of sexual health

Appendix 2: 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	