

Blackpool Skills Academy

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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1. Policy Statement

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is a lifelong process of acquiring information, developing skills, and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships, and emotions. It supports students to understand the value of stable, respectful, and loving relationships and the importance of family life.

At Blackpool Skills Academy, we aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make safe, informed, and healthy decisions about their relationships and sexual health. Our approach emphasises self-respect, empathy, resilience, and emotional literacy.

RSE is a cross-curricular responsibility and a key part of students' broader personal development. It does not promote early sexual activity. Instead, it encourages delay and responsible behaviour, especially under the many conflicting pressures facing young people today.

2. Statutory Requirements

We are required to provide RSE to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

Our provision aligns with statutory science content and complies with our funding agreements and legal duties, including:

- Sections 403, 406, and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- The Equality Act 2010

- The Public Sector Equality Duty
 - The Human Rights Act 1998
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3. Curriculum Content and Delivery

RSE is delivered primarily through PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education), with biological aspects covered in science, and ethical and moral dimensions included in RE.

The curriculum is mapped out in Appendices 1 and 3 and has been developed in consultation with students, staff, and parents. It is age-appropriate and considers the developmental needs and lived experiences of our learners.

We ensure that the curriculum:

- Builds students' capacity for safe, respectful relationships
- Provides medically and legally accurate information
- Is inclusive of all genders, sexual orientations, and family structures
- Equips students to critically assess media messages and online influences

All curriculum resources are available to parents and carers on request.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Governors

Responsible for approving the policy and holding local governance to account.

Headteacher

Ensures consistent implementation across the trust and reports to trustees on RSE delivery.

Local Governing Body

Monitors local implementation and escalates issues to the Headteacher.

Headteacher

Responsible for ensuring that RSE is delivered consistently and appropriately, for sharing materials with parents/carers, and for managing withdrawal requests.

Staff

Teachers must:

- Deliver RSE sensitively and confidently
- Model respectful behaviour and inclusive attitudes
- Respond appropriately to individual needs
- Address any parental withdrawal from non-statutory RSE content

Teachers cannot opt out of delivering RSE. Any concerns should be raised with the headteacher.

5. Parents' Right to Withdraw

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from non-statutory, non-science components of sex education.

- Requests must be made in writing using the form in Appendix 4
- A record of the request will be kept on the pupil's file
- The headteacher will meet with parents to discuss the decision
- Alternative work will be provided to the pupil
- Withdrawal requests will be reported to the Headteacher

After a pupil turns 16, they may opt into sex education even if previously withdrawn.

6. Use of External Organisations

External visitors may be used to enrich our RSE provision. However, the school retains responsibility for the content and quality of all sessions.

We will:

- Vet all agencies and materials in advance

- Ensure alignment with British values and safeguarding requirements
- Only use resources that meet the needs and age of our learners
- Ensure staff are present during any external sessions
- Share resources with parents if requested

We will not engage with agencies that promote extreme views or provide materials that contradict our policy.

7. Staff Training

Staff receive RSE training during induction and through ongoing CPD. The headteacher may also arrange support from external specialists (e.g., school nurses, sexual health professionals) to support teacher confidence and curriculum delivery.

Appendix 1: RSE Curriculum Map

Year 7

- Puberty and emotional changes
- Menstrual wellbeing
- Healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Managing conflict
- Introduction to consent

Year 8

- Relationship values
- Influences on expectations
- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Consent and avoiding assumptions
- Introduction to contraception

Year 9

- Respectful relationship behaviours
- Freedom and capacity to consent
- Sexual health and contraception
- Managing breakups

Year 10

- Intimacy and pleasure
- The impact of pornography

- Pressure and coercion
- Relationship abuse and conflict resolution

Year 11

- Family conflict and long-term commitment
 - Fertility, parenthood, and sexual health
 - Pregnancy outcomes and choices
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Appendix 2: By the End of Secondary School – What Pupils Should Know

Families

- Characteristics of stable relationships and marriage
- Responsibilities of parenting
- How to identify and report unsafe relationships

Respectful Relationships & Friendships

- Traits of healthy friendships and conflict management
- How stereotypes and discrimination cause harm
- What constitutes harassment, coercive control, and abuse

Online & Media

- Responsibilities and risks online
- Managing harmful content
- Sexting, privacy, and data security

Being Safe

- The law around consent, grooming, FGM, and abuse
- How and when to give or withdraw consent

Intimate & Sexual Relationships

- Healthy relationship characteristics
- Contraceptive choices and STI prevention
- Pregnancy options and sources of help
- How alcohol and drugs can impair judgment

- Access to reproductive health services



Appendix 3: Parental Withdrawal Form

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS

Name of child: _____

Class: _____

Name of parent/carer: _____

Date: _____

Reason for withdrawal from sex education:

Additional information (optional):

Parent/carer signature: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL

Agreed actions from discussion with parents/carers:
