

Relationships, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

Date: March 2026

Review Date: March 2027

Lead: Mrs K Bentley

1. Policy Aims and Intent

Our RSHE program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to lead healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives. In **Blackpool**, we recognise that our students face unique challenges regarding health inequalities, local safeguarding risks (such as "County Lines"), and aspiration.

Our intent is to:

- **Provide a "Spiral Curriculum" (Jigsaw):** Building knowledge as students mature.
 - **Target Local Needs (JSNA):** Prioritise topics such as vaping, mental resilience, and sexual health based on the Blackpool Joint Strategic Needs Assessment..
 - **Foster Economic Aspiration:** Use the "Dreams and Goals" unit to break the cycle of seasonal, low-wage employment by mapping directly to high-growth sectors like the **Blackpool Enterprise Zone**, **Civil Service Hubs**, and **National Infrastructure**.
 - **Ensure Neutrality:** All teaching remains neutral, factual, and age-appropriate.
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2. Statutory Requirements and Parental Rights

2.1 Compliance

This policy complies with Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and the DfE statutory guidance (2024). It meets the requirements of the **Equality Act 2010**, ensuring we promote respect for all, including those with **Protected Characteristics**.

2.2 Parental Engagement & Transparency

In line with new DfE guidance, we operate an "Open Door" policy for RSHE materials:

- **Access:** All Jigsaw slides and resources are available for parents to view upon request.
- **Consultation:** We conduct annual consultations to ensure the curriculum reflects our community's values.

2.3 The Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of **Sex Education** delivered as part of statutory RSE.

- There is **no right to withdraw** from **Relationships Education** or **Health Education** (including puberty and menstruation).
- Requests must be made in writing to the Headteacher, followed by a meeting to discuss the implications for the child.

3. Curriculum Implementation (The Blackpool Context)

We deliver RSHE through the **Jigsaw 11-16** framework, adapted for local priorities:

Theme	Blackpool Strategic Adaptation
Relationships	Contextual Safeguarding: Focus on CCE, "Cuckooing" at transport hubs (Blackpool North), and Operation Encompass support.
Health	JSNA Priorities: Units on the "Vaping Epidemic," Oral Health (addressing 2x national extraction rates), and Circulatory Health.
Safety	Environmental Resilience: RNLI " Float to Live " partnership for coastal safety and summer promenade risks.
Careers	Employer Encounters (Benchmark 5): Visits to George Cox sites (Y8) , Choice Hotels (Y9) , and NHS/Armed Forces workshops to showcase professional, non-seasonal pathways.
Technical Paths	Vocational Excellence: National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) assemblies focusing on T-Levels and Degree Apprenticeships at local colleges.

4. Safeguarding and Sensitive Topics

4.1 Gender Identity

In line with the 2024 DfE guidelines, we teach about gender identity in a **neutral and factual way**. We do not teach contested ideologies as fact. We prioritise the "best interests" of the child and work closely with parents regarding any requests for social transition.

4.2 Disclosures

RSHE can trigger disclosures. All staff are trained in **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**. Any disclosure will be handled via the schools system and directed to the DSL.

5. Quality Assurance and Monitoring

To ensure the policy is effective, the PD Lead will:

1. **Climate Walks:** Conduct termly drop-ins to observe "Safe Learning Environments."
2. **Workbook Scrutiny:** Checking PD workbooks and the use of "**Blackpool Context**" **Icon** to evidence localised delivery.
3. **Student Voice:** Use termly surveys to ensure the curriculum is "sticky" and relevant.

6. Approval and Review

This policy has been reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and approved by the Governing Body.

Signed (Headteacher): _____

Signed (Chair of Governors): _____