

Relationships Education and Relationships Sex Education

Current regulations and guidance from the Department for Education state that from September 2020 all schools must deliver relationships education (in primary schools) and relationships and sex education (in secondary schools). As we are required to teach relationships education and RSE as part of the curriculum, this informs what is covered in PSHE. This policy covers our school's approach to Relationships Education (RE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). RSE is an integral part of the PSHE education policy.

In the Lower and Middle School (Year 3-6), the boys receive Relationships Education (RE) as part of the PSHE programme. RE creates an opportunity to enable pupils to be taught about positive emotional and mental wellbeing, including how friendships can support mental wellbeing.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is taught in Years 7 and 8. Woodcote defines 'relationships and sex education' as an opportunity to enable pupils to be taught about positive emotional and mental wellbeing, including how friendships can support mental wellbeing. In Year 7 and 8, the aim of RSE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It covers contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It teaches what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships. This will help pupils understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed.

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

High quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects can help prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. They can also enable schools to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, at school and in society. We believe relationships and sex education is important for our pupils and our school and we view the partnership of home and school as vital in providing the context to support our pupils' development.

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) continues to be compulsory in independent schools.

We ensure RSE is inclusive and meets the needs of all our pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by ensuring high quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will be the starting point to ensure accessibility. Relationships Education and RSE can

also be particularly important subjects for some pupils; for example those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs or learning disabilities. Such factors should be taken into consideration in designing and teaching these subjects. In teaching Relationships Education and RSE, Woodcote ensures that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect.

The policy will be available to parents through the school internet page.

Subject content- how it is taught and who is responsible for teaching it

The RE and RSE programme is taught as part of the PSHE programme by form teachers on Thursday mornings. It is supported by outside speakers, assemblies and teaching (notably the Science Department) in the school.

We ensure a safe learning environment establishing an environment in which pupils are supported and encouraged to share and respect ideas and opinions. Teachers and pupils agree “ground rules” at the start of the year to create a safe learning environment.

Distancing techniques such as being in a role, empathising with a character or speaking in response to the actions of others (real or imaginary) enable pupils to explore their feelings about issues safely, because they are not speaking or acting as themselves. These can be used because they depersonalise the situations under discussion.

Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. In this instance, teachers will consult with the designated safeguarding lead and in his /her absence their deputy.

How the subject is monitored and evaluated

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education provision and covers what is outlined in the scheme of work. We ensure RE and RSE is matched to the needs of our pupils by selecting age appropriate and relevant material.

Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their own learning and progress by discussing and reflecting on what they have learned in a plenary session at the end of the PSHE lesson.

The subject is monitored and evaluated through input and feedback from pupils, parents and staff. For instance, student voice, by means of the “Pupil Voice”, is used to review and tailor our RSE programme to match the different needs of pupils.

Parents’ rights and withdrawing your child

There is no right to withdraw your son from Relationships Education. Boys in Year 6 will receive elements of sex education as part of the National Curriculum in Science; parents do not have the right to withdraw from this.

In Year 7 and Year 8, if a parent/carer requests that their child be removed from sex education, the school will respect the parents’ request to withdraw the child. If a pupil is excused from sex education, the pupil will receive purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

This policy was produced by the Head of PSHE through consultation with the Headmaster. We believe that the policy meets the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community we serve.

This policy will be reviewed by September 2023 to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of pupils, staff and parents and that it is in line with current Department for Education advice and guidance.

It will be reviewed by the Head of PSHEE, the Headmaster and Director of Studies. The policy will be available to parents through the school internet page.

September 2022