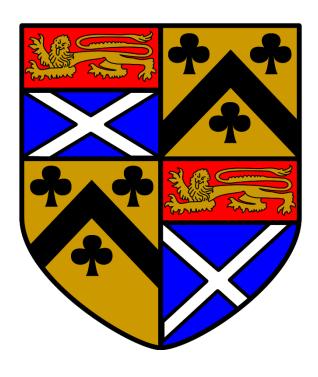
The Rochester Grammar School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy



This policy was adopted on	June 2025
The policy is to be reviewed on	June 2026

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1. Aims

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

- > Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- > Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- > Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- > Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- > Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

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 <u>guidance</u> issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the <u>Education Act 1996</u>.

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the Equality Act 2010
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

At Rochester Grammar School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

- 1. Review a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
- Staff consultation all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
- 3. Parent/stakeholder consultation parents and any interested parties were given the opportunity to review the policy and submit feedback
- 4. Pupil consultation we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
- 5. Ratification once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE). A full PSHE overview can be found on the school website: https://rochestergrammar.org.uk/learn-with-us/subjects/pshe/

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

Students in Years 7 to 13 will have one PSHE lesson per fortnight on a rolling timetable. This is delivered using the PSHE Association's Thematic Model and follows the recommended Programme of Study.

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- > Families
- > Respectful relationships, including friendships
- > Online and media
- > Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- > Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- > Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- > During lessons, makes pupils feel:
 - Safe and supported
 - Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- > Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
 - A whole-class setting
 - Small groups or targeted sessions
 - 1-to-1 discussions
 - Digital formats
- > Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

6.2 Use of resources

We will consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- o Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- o Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

7. Use of external organisations and materials

We will make sure that an agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

The school remains responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used don't undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We will:

- > Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
 - o Are age-appropriate
 - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
 - o Comply with:
 - This policy
 - The <u>Teachers' Standards</u>
 - The Equality Act 2010
 - The <u>Human Rights Act 1998</u>
 - The Education Act 1996
- > Only work with external agencies where we have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses

- > Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
- > Review any case study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
- > Be clear on:
 - What they're going to say
 - Their position on the issues to be discussed
- Ask to see in advance any materials that the agency may use
- > Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow our usual safeguarding procedures for these people
- > Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to us, or to parents and carers
- > Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
- > Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
- > Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers

We won't, under any circumstances:

- > Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
- > Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme

8. Roles and responsibilities

8.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Principal to account for its implementation.

8.2 The Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from (non-statutory/non-science] components of RSE (see section 8).

8.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- > Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- > Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- > Monitoring progress
- > Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- > Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the (non-statutory/non-science) components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Principal.

RSE will be delivered by our House Form Tutor team with the more sensitive topics delivered by our dedicated RSE team.

The Vice Principal is responsible for Personal Development at The Rochester Grammar School.

The Curriculum Leader for PSHE is responsible for developing and implementing The Rochester Grammar School PSHE curriculum.

8.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

9. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the (non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Principal.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Principal will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Following the meeting if it is still the parents' wish to withdraw the student, a request in writing stating which part of the programme the student should be excluded from will be necessary

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

10. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar. The Principal will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Curriculum Leader for PSHE through a quality assurance programme which includes regular learning walks/lesson observations, student and staff voice and reviewing the use of Cornell notes.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Vice Principal and Curriculum Leader for PSHE annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board and the Principal.



RGS PSHE

Department Vision:

"The Rochester Grammar School PSHE curriculum aims to support students to stay safe, healthy and prepared for life's opportunities."

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Health and Well-Being		
Health: Understanding healthy lifestyles.	Personal Safety: Understanding how to stay safe online and offline.	Drugs & Alcohol : Understanding the risks and the law relating to substances.
Students will develop an understanding of how to stay healthy and safe to ensure they live a balanced lifestyle, now and in the future.	Students will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to identify risk and manage personal safety in increasingly independent situations.	Drugs and alcohol topics are taught to encourage students to recognise and assess risk as they mature as well as understanding the law relating to misuse.
Living in the Wider World		
Finance: Understanding financial matters.	Careers: Developing skills for future work and careers.	Social Issues: Developing the skills to thrive in a challenging world.
Financial products and choices will be taught through progressive and sequenced lessons to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to make informed financial decisions.	Students explore the relationship between social media, personal strengths and opportunities for future work and employment to support their transition to the workplace.	Social issues are taught to raise awareness of the legal implications of anti-social behaviour. Students are also taught media and digital literacy skills to ensure they stay safe online.
Relationships (RSE)		
Sex & Relationships : Building positive foundations for healthy and safe relationships.	Friends & Family: Forming and maintaining respectful relationships.	Community: Recognising and celebrating difference within communities.
Complex RSE topics are taught safely and effectively, in an inclusive and age-appropriate way. Students are supported to recognise healthy and unhealthy relationships and behaviours, and seek help if they need to.	Students will develop an understanding of how to live in the wider world, whilst exploring practical steps in a range of different contexts to support positive and respectful relationships.	Students learn to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect, including people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs.





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Health and Well-Being		
Health: Understanding healthy lifestyles.	Personal Safety: Understanding how to stay safe online and offline.	Drugs & Alcohol : Understanding the risks and the law relating to substances.
 Puberty & Periods Female Genital Mutilation Mental Health Eye Health (Form Time) Dental Health (Form Time) 	 Transition to Secondary School Physical Health - Eating Responsibly World Immunisation Week (Form Time) Blood, Organ & Stem Cell Donation (Form Time) 	 Caffeine Dangers of Cigarettes, Vaping & Alcohol
Living in the Wider World		
Finance: Understanding financial matters.	Careers: Developing skills for future work and careers.	Social Issues: Developing the skills to thrive in a challenging world.
 Budgeting Banking Managing Money - (Community Project) 	Careers Teamwork & Communication (Community Project) Fortnightly Careers Spotlight (Form Time) National Careers Week (Form Time)	 Kindness Self Esteem & Resilience Sextortion (Form Time) Social Media Algorithms (Form Time)
Relationships (RSE)		
Sex & Relationships : Building positive foundations for healthy and safe relationships.	Friends & Family: Forming and maintaining respectful relationships.	Community: Recognising and celebrating difference within communities.
 Safe & Positive Relationships On/Offline (including Consent) Love & Relationships 	Friendship & EmpathyBullying	 Identity & Community Bias & Stereotypes Dyslexia Awareness (Form Time) Religious Festival Celebrations (Form Time) Black History Month (Form Time) Pride Month (Form Time)





Health and Well-Being		
Health: Understanding healthy lifestyles.	Personal Safety: Understanding how to stay safe online and offline.	Drugs & Alcohol : Understanding the risks and the law relating to substances.
 Emotional Literacy Mental Health - Self Harm Eye Health (Form Time) Dental Health (Form Time) 	 Dealing with an Emergency Internet Safety - Online Grooming World Immunisation Week (Form Time) Blood, Organ & Stem Cell Donation (Form Time) 	Alcohol & RiskVapingAttitudes Towards Drugs
Living in the Wider World		
Finance: Understanding financial matters.	Careers: Developing skills for future work and careers.	Social Issues: Developing the skills to thrive in a challenging world.
 Finance - Income & Expenditure Savings Budgeting (Water Project) 	 Careers - Communication Careers - Teamwork Fortnightly Careers Spotlight (Form Time) National Careers Week (Form Time) 	 Stereotyping, Discrimination & Prejudice LGBT & Disability Stereotyping, Discrimination & Prejudice Race & Religion Sextortion (Form Time) Social Media Algorithms (Form Time)
Relationships (RSE)		
Sex & Relationships : Building positive foundations for healthy and safe relationships.	Friends & Family: Forming and maintaining respectful relationships.	Community: Recognising and celebrating difference within communities.
ConsentRelationship ValuesSexting	 Domestic Conflict Bullying (Form Time) 	 British Values & Tolerance Discrimination & Protected Characteristics Dyslexia Awareness (Form Time) Religious Festival Celebrations (Form Time) Black History Month (Form Time) Pride Month (Form Time)



Health and Well-Being		
Health: Understanding healthy lifestyles.	Personal Safety: Understanding how to stay safe online and offline.	Drugs & Alcohol : Understanding the risks and the law relating to substances.
 Mental Health Body Image & The Media Eye Health (Form Time) Dental Health (Form Time) 	 Responsible Health Choices Feelings About Sharing Nudes World Immunisation Week (Form Time) Blood, Organ & Stem Cell Donation (Form Time) 	Drugs & The LawAlcohol & Cannabis
Living in the Wider World		
Finance: Understanding financial matters.	Careers: Developing skills for future work and careers.	Social Issues: Developing the skills to thrive in a challenging world.
 Being Financially Savvy Consumer Rights & Successful Businesses Enterprise Week - Dragon's Den Project 	 Employability Enterprise Week - Dragon's Den Project Fortnightly Careers Spotlight (Form Time) National Careers Week (Form Time) 	 County Lines & Gangs (St Giles Speaker) Knife Crime & The Law Sextortion (Form Time) Social Media Algorithms (Form Time)
Relationships (RSE)	•	
Sex & Relationships : Building positive foundations for healthy and safe relationships.	Friends & Family: Forming and maintaining respectful relationships.	Community: Recognising and celebrating difference within communities.
 Healthy & Unhealthy Relationships Consent Sexual Health - STI's Sexual Health - Contraception 	Peer Pressure & Bullying Bullying (Form Time)	 Diverse & Supportive Communities Dyslexia Awareness (Form Time) Religious Festival Celebrations (Form Time) Black History Month (Form Time) Pride Month (Form Time)



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Health and Well-Being		
Health: Understanding healthy lifestyles.	Personal Safety: Understanding how to stay safe online and offline.	Drugs & Alcohol : Understanding the risks and the law relating to substances.
Eye Health (Form Time)Dental Health (Form Time)	 Internet Safety - Pressure of Life Online World Immunisation Week (Form Time) Blood, Organ & Stem Cell Donation (Form Time) 	Influence on Substance Use Effects of Substances on Personal Safety
Living in the Wider World		
Finance: Understanding financial matters.	Careers: Developing skills for future work and careers.	Social Issues: Developing the skills to thrive in a challenging world.
Borrowing & Debt	 Careers - Rights & Responsibilities, CVs Choosing the Right Career for You Fortnightly Careers Spotlight (Form Time) National Careers Week (Form Time) 	 Money Laundering & Exploitation Anti-Social Behaviour Criminal Justice System Sextortion (Form Time) Social Media Algorithms (Form Time)
Relationships (RSE)		
Sex & Relationships : Building positive foundations for healthy and safe relationships.	Friends & Family: Forming and maintaining respectful relationships.	Community: Recognising and celebrating difference within communities.
 The Role of Intimacy & Pleasure The Impact of Pornography Addressing Relationship Abuse Harassment & Stalking 	 Marriage inc. Forced & Arranged Parenting Bullying (Form Time) 	 Sexism, Gender Prejudice & Stereotypes Preventing Extremism Dyslexia Awareness (Form Time) Religious Festival Celebrations (Form Time) Black History Month (Form Time) Pride Month (Form Time)



Health and Well-Being		
Health: Understanding healthy lifestyles.	Personal Safety: Understanding how to stay safe online and offline.	Drugs & Alcohol : Understanding the risks and the law relating to substances.
Eye Health (Form Time)Dental Health (Form Time)	 Violence Against Women & Girls World Immunisation Week (Form Time) Blood, Organ & Stem Cell Donation (Form Time) 	 Managing Peer Influence in Independent Contexts Consequences of Drug Use
Living in the Wider World		
Finance: Understanding financial matters.	Careers: Developing skills for future work and careers.	Social Issues : Developing the skills to thrive in a challenging world.
• Payslips	 Preparing for The World of Work Career Preferences Fortnightly Careers Spotlight (Form Time) National Careers Week (Form Time) 	 Managing Online Reputation Sextortion (Form Time) Social Media Algorithms (Form Time)
Relationships (RSE)		
Sex & Relationships : Building positive foundations for healthy and safe relationships.	Friends & Family: Forming and maintaining respectful relationships.	Community: Recognising and celebrating difference within communities.
 Rights, Trust and Values Communication in Relationships Consent (Inc. Abuse & Rape) 	FertilityPregnancyBullying (Form Time)	 Dyslexia Awareness (Form Time) Religious Festival Celebrations (Form Time) Black History Month (Form Time) Pride Month (Form Time)



Health and Well-Being		
Health: Understanding healthy lifestyles.	Personal Safety: Understanding how to stay safe online and offline.	Drugs & Alcohol : Understanding the risks and the law relating to substances.
 Health Inequalities Making Independent Health Choices Self-Examination and Screening Dental Health (Form Time) 	 Thriving in Post 16 Education Managing Risk in New Situations World Immunisation Week (Form Time) Blood, Organ & Stem Cell Donation (Form Time) 	 Date Rape Drugs & Alcohol - Managing influences and risks, and seeking support
Living in the Wider World		
Finance: Understanding financial matters.	Careers: Developing skills for future work and careers.	Social Issues: Developing the skills to thrive in a challenging world.
 Workplace Rights and Responsibilities Student Finance (Key Stage Team) 	 Fortnightly Careers Spotlight (Form Time) National Careers Week (Form Time) 	 Online Blackmail Sextortion (Form Time) Social Media Algorithms (Form Time)
Relationships (RSE)		
Sex & Relationships: Building positive foundations for healthy and safe relationships.	Friends & Family: Forming and maintaining respectful relationships.	Community: Recognising and celebrating difference within communities.
Safe Sex & Sexual Health	Bullying (Form Time)	 Dyslexia Awareness (Form Time) Religious Festival Celebrations (Form Time) Black History Month (Form Time) Pride Month (Form Time)



Health and Well-Being		
Health: Understanding healthy lifestyles.	Personal Safety: Understanding how to stay safe online and offline.	Drugs & Alcohol : Understanding the risks and the law relating to substances.
Well-BeingDental Health (Form Time)	 Staying Safe When Living Independently World Immunisation Week (Form Time) Blood, Organ & Stem Cell Donation (Form Time) 	Exploring the Risks and Consequences of Substance Use
Living in the Wider World		
Finance: Understanding financial matters.	Careers: Developing skills for future work and careers.	Social Issues : Developing the skills to thrive in a challenging world.
Student Finance (Key Stage Team)	 Fortnightly Careers Spotlight (Form Time) National Careers Week (Form Time) 	 Sextortion (Form Time) Social Media Algorithms (Form Time)
Relationships (RSE)		
Sex & Relationships : Building positive foundations for healthy and safe relationships.	Friends & Family: Forming and maintaining respectful relationships.	Community: Recognising and celebrating difference within communities.
Unwanted, Inappropriate & Illegal Behaviours	Bullying (Form Time)	 Dyslexia Awareness (Form Time) Religious Festival Celebrations (Form Time) Black History Month (Form Time) Pride Month (Form Time)





Appendix 2: by the end of secondary school pupils should know.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	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
Respectful relationships, including	• The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including: trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. This includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship
friendships	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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online and media	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
	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	• 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)

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	 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 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

Appendix 3: 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					