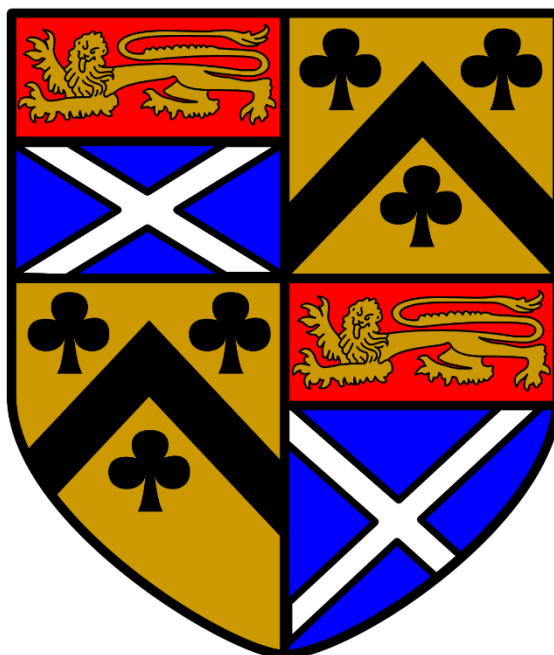


The Rochester Grammar School

Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy



This policy was adopted on	July 2026
The policy is to be reviewed on	July 2029

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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
- Reinforce our commitment to respect, integrity and positive contributions to society

2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy, we must provide RSE to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

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

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 The 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/carers. 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
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents/carers and any interested parties were invited to share their views about the policy as part of the wider PSHE parent consultation
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.

5. Curriculum

Our RSE 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/carers, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

We will share all curriculum materials with parents and carers upon request.

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum at The Rochester Grammar School, with some biological aspects taught within the science curriculum, and other elements included in Religious Studies (RS).

RSE is delivered through planned, timetabled lessons that follow an age-appropriate, spiral curriculum, allowing students to revisit and build on prior knowledge as they progress. Local and national data have been considered when determining the appropriate year groups for teaching sex education, ensuring the curriculum is relevant and responsive to students' needs. The programme is inclusive, with teaching adapted to support all pupils, including those with special educational needs, enabling every student to access and benefit from the curriculum.

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 make sure 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 and 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:

- 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
- 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:
 - Are age-appropriate
 - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
 - Comply with:
 - This policy
 - The [Teachers' Standards](#)
 - The [Equality Act 2010](#)
 - The [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
 - 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
- Share all external materials with parents and carers

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 headteacher to account for its implementation.

8.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, for sharing resources and materials with parents and carers, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory/non-science components of RSE (see section 9).

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/carers 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 headteacher.

The members of staff responsible for teaching RSE at The Rochester Grammar School are:

Curriculum Leader for PSHE:

Miss Phillips

PSHE Department:

Ms Jackson, Ms Rodgers-Jones, Ms Norris, Ms Peers-Noakes, Ms Woodman-Evans, Ms Worrell, Ms Coward, Mrs Britten, Mrs Reckless, Ms Esmonde, Ms Shersby, Ms Abro, Mrs Le Brunn-Moore, Ms Martinez, Ms Huckstep and Mrs Gamanlal.

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/carers have the right to withdraw their child 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.

We do not consider that our curriculum includes content that is distinct, stand-alone 'sex education'; rather, it is predominantly delivered within the context of relationships education, which is statutory and not subject to withdrawal. However, we recognise that parents/carers may have individual concerns, and any requests will be considered sensitively on a case-by-case basis in line with the process outlined below.

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

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents/carers and take appropriate action.

Alternative schoolwork 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 headteacher 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 Chloe Phillips (Curriculum Leader for PSHE) through:

- Regular planning scrutinies to ensure coverage, progression and consistency across year groups
- Learning walks to observe teaching and student engagement
- Work scrutiny to review the quality and appropriateness of student outcomes
- Student voice activities to gather feedback on the RSE curriculum and its impact
- Staff feedback and departmental discussions to support ongoing development
- Review of assessment data (where appropriate) to inform curriculum planning and delivery
- Monitoring of resources to ensure they are current, inclusive and appropriate

This monitoring ensures that RSE is delivered effectively, consistently and in line with statutory guidance and the school's ethos.

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

This policy will be reviewed by Academy Governing Board (AGB), annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the AGB and the headteacher.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Relationships and sex education curriculum map



Year 8

Year 8 PSHE helps students make smart, safe choices about health, relationships, and life online. Building confidence to navigate real - world and digital challenges.



Health & Wellbeing

- Making Healthier Choices
- Managing Strong Emotions
- Maintaining Dental Health
- HPV & Vaccinations



Belonging & Community

- Identity & Community
- Bias & Stereotypes
- Discrimination & Protected Characteristics
- Values & Constrictive Disagreement
- Diverse & Supportive Communities



Drug Education

- Alcohol & Risk
- Attitudes Towards Drugs



Healthy & Unhealthy Relationships

- Healthy Relationships
- Sexualised Media
- Safer Online Relationships
- Sexual Harassment & Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Sharing of Nudes
- Consent
- Preventing Gender Based Violence



Spotlight Sessions

- Water Project
- Self-Esteem & Kindness Workshop
- Screen Sense: Navigating the Digital World
 - Pressure to Spend Online, Algorithms, Gambling & Gaming



Tutor Time

- How to Open A Bank Account
- Reading A Bank Statement
- Saving
- How to Use A Bank Card
- Decision Making: A Guide to Banking
- Firework Safety
- HPV + Vaccines
- Community Safety/ ASB
- Deprivation & Inequality
- Sleep
- Physical Activity
- Childhood Obesity
- Vaping
- Social Media - WhatsApp
- Social Media - Keeping Yourself Safe

Year 9

Year 9 PSHE develops the knowledge and confidence to navigate relationships, online risks, and real - world challenges, helping students make safe, informed choices for the future.



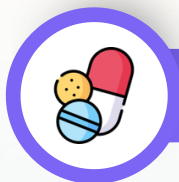
Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Managing Disappointments and Setbacks
- Unhealthy Coping Strategies
- Healthy Coping Strategies



Managing Risk in Relation to The Law

- Serious and Organised Crime
- Gangs: Managing Risks & Staying Safe



Drug Education

- Drug Laws & Risk
- Alcohol & Cannabis
- Managing Influence



Intimate Sexual Relationships

- Avoiding Assumptions
- Freedom & Capacity to Consent
- Relationship Values
- Contraception and Sexual Health
- Managing the End of Relationships



Navigating Online Harms

- Feelings About Sharing Nudes
- Misogyny
- Deepfakes



Spotlight Sessions

- Enterprise Days
- Find Your Future
 - Exploring Careers & Showcasing Personal Strengths
- Scams, Hacks & Online Traps



Tutor Time

- Exploring Career Interests
- Work Patterns & Places
- Managing Pressure & Seeking Support
- Preparing for KS4 Options
- Managing Online Reputation
- Firework Safety
- HPV + Vaccines
- Community Safety/ ASB
- Deprivation & Inequality
- Sleep
- Physical Activity
- Childhood Obesity
- Vaping
- Social Media - WhatsApp
- Social Media - Keeping Yourself Safe



Year 10

Year 10 PSHE builds knowledge and confidence to navigate online risks, relationships, and wider social influences, helping students make informed, responsible decisions about their health, wellbeing, and future.



Navigating The Online World

- Understanding Artificial Intelligence
- Understanding Chatbots
- Digital Deception (Deepfakes/Nudes)



Friendship, Diversity & Challenging Extremism

- Recognising & Challenging Bullying
- Valuing Diversity
- Understanding & Preventing Extremism
- How Are People Drawn into Extremist Groups



Managing Influence

- Social Media - All about the money?
- Social Media - Can it be trusted?
- Impact and Spread of Misogynistic Narratives
- Safely Challenging Misogynistic Beliefs & Attitudes



Exploring Consent & Recognising Abuse

- The Role of Intimacy & Pleasure
- Impact of Pornography
- Pressure, Persuasion & Coercion
- FGM - Virginity Testing & Hymenoplasty
- Forced Marriage
- Relationship Rights & Reporting Abuse



Spotlight Sessions

- Study Skills
- Healthy Bodies, Healthy Futures
 - Exploring Physical Activity, Menstruation, Donation and Cancer Awareness.



Tutor Time

- Identifying Career Preferences
- Navigating The Careers Landscape
- Mapping A Career Path
- Preparing for Work Experience
- Reflecting on Work Experience
- Firework Safety
- HPV + Vaccines
- Community Safety/ ASB
- Deprivation & Inequality
- Sleep
- Physical Activity
- Childhood Obesity
- Vaping
- Social Media - WhatsApp
- Social Media - Keeping Yourself Safe



Year 11

Year 11 PSHE develops students' understanding of personal safety, healthy relationships, and key life decisions, building the confidence to manage risk, wellbeing, and future responsibilities with independence.



Drugs & Personal Safety

- Assessing Risk
- Managing Influence & Seeking Help
- Gangs: Managing Risks & Staying Safe



Spotlight Sessions

- Study Skills
- Lifelong Wellbeing
 - Mental Health, Managing Distractions, Managing Stress & Tension, Managing Change, Loss & Grief.



Tutor Time

- Making Money Online: Rights, Risks & Crypto
- Betting/Gambling
- Financial Exploitation
- Money Laundering
- Social Engineering
- Firework Safety
- HPV + Vaccines
- Community Safety/ ASB
- Deprivation & Inequality
- Sleep
- Physical Activity
- Childhood Obesity
- Vaping
- Social Media - WhatsApp
- Social Media - Keeping Yourself Safe



Safer Relationships & Sexual Health

- Healthy & Unhealthy Relationships
- Power & Control
- Setting Boundaries & Getting Help
- Relationship Behaviours
- Choices Related to Sexual Health & Contraception



Families, Fertility & Pregnancy

- Long Term Commitments & Marriage
- Parenting
- Fertility & Routes to Parenthood
- Pregnancy Outcomes & Choices



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/carers 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 friendships	• 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 • 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/carer form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent/carer		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/carers	