



# RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

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## DEFINITION

Relationship and Sex Education (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.

## POLICY STATEMENT

As an independent SEMH school the guidelines state we should provide RSE to all pupils as per the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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

**In order to comply with statutory requirements, Amberley Court School (ACS) requires the teachers to:**

- provide guidance and information on all aspects of RSE to staff, parents/carers.
- develop effective RSE as part of the National Curriculum (Science, PSHE/SEMH and Citizenship) involving staff, parents/carers and pupils in the process.
- monitor and evaluate their RSE.
- provide information to parents/carers on their right to withdraw their child from SRE, when age-appropriate to do so.
- inform staff on how to deal with confidentiality (*including informing and supporting a child where confidentiality must be breached for their own safety*), raising safeguarding and child protection concerns (*in accordance with Seadown School's Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy*) and handling difficult questions with unbiased responses and in a professional manner.
- execute a sympathetic approach, considering the needs of individuals.
- comply with Seadown School's Equality & Diversity Policy by responding to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision must be allocated for all groups.

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

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

### ***Attitudes and Values***

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations.
- learning the value of family life, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children.
- learning the value of respect, love and care.
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

### ***Personal and Social Skills***

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- developing self-respect and empathy for others.
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice.
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- managing conflict.
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

### ***Knowledge and Understanding***

- learning and understanding physical development.
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships (at age-appropriate levels).

- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice (where appropriate).
- contraception and support services.
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay.
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

### ***Assessment and Evaluation***

Seadown School will ensure that the elements of RSE are taught at **age-appropriate** levels.

Lessons will be formally assessed. Teachers delivering RSE should constantly evaluate their lessons to inform future planning.

## **CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum is planned for the academic year but we do reserve the ability to change the designated sessions in accordance to current social issues, school led issues and ad hoc safeguarding issues as they occur within Seadown.

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.

## **THE DELIVERY OF THE CURRICULUM**

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). Seadown endeavours to link appropriate lessons in all subjects to topics relating to RSE if appropriate and relevant.

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by classroom teachers and in line with the levels of understanding and the capability of our cohort.

Basic Primary age topics:

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

Families and people who care for me

Caring friendships

Respectful relationships

Online relationships

Being safe

Basic Secondary age topics:

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

Additional support for all students:

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, LGBTQ+ 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).

Topic weeks will be timetabled to cover other contextual issues within our community. These will be school wide agendas and teachers will be encouraged to include some aspects of: Online safety, RESPECT agenda, County Lines, Radicalisation, Peer pressure, Drugs and Alcohol, Ganges, CSE, Sexting and social media, LGBTQ+ issues.

These weeks may include a 'drop-in' session for those students who wish to discuss the topics in more depth. These drop-in sessions will be timetabled by the Pastoral Team.

#### **PARENTS RIGHT TO WITHDRAW**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the 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 to the Headteacher or appropriate member of the SLT or teaching staff.

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

**END**

<b>POSITION</b>	Headteacher	<b>NAME</b>		<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
<b>POSITION</b>	Governor	<b>NAME</b>		<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	