

FamilyCare

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Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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Relationships and Sexual Policy

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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at Access, Rodenhurst and Eden Schools are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- To support students who have had a difficult and sometimes traumatic start in life to understand about and seek healthy relationships

2. Statutory requirements

As an independent school we are not required to follow the guidance published by the Government as the Independent School Standards already require us to deliver relationship education as part of PSHE, however at Access, Eden and Rodenhurst schools we have chosen to adopt the following guidance as good practice;

- [Children and Social work act 2017.](#)
- Section 403 of the [Education Act 1996.](#)



3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation. We will seek to offer opportunities for its on-going review from interested parties.

1. Staff consultation
2. Parent/stakeholder consultation
3. Student consultation

4. Definition

Relationship and Sex Education is about the emotional, social and cultural development of students, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. It is particularly important at our schools where many of our students have experienced negative and harmful relationships and 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 our therapy team and parents/carers, it is designed to meet the specific needs of our vulnerable cohort. If students ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers or external speakers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed **and don't** need to seek answers online.

For more information about our curriculum, see Appendix 1.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE at our Schools 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).

Students can also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional as per the Local Authority guidance. The content of these sessions will be agreed and modified before each session to ensure it meets the exact needs of the particular group. Care will also be taken to group students appropriately for these sessions according to maturity, confidence in a group setting and their own life experiences which may impact within this subject. Support needs for the session will also be considered carefully, with thought given to the possible impact of known staff in allowing students to talk openly, balanced with the need for good behavioural management.

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. At our schools we will reflect sensitively that many of our young people may have a different structure of support around them as looked after youngsters.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The Proprietary board

The Proprietary board will approve the RSE policy and hold the head teacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The head teacher

The head of school is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw students from components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual students
- Responding appropriately to students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from components of RSE

Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the head teacher.

7.4 Students

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

8. 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 using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the head teacher. Where parents do not have full parental responsibility, this request must be made jointly with those who also hold parental responsibility.

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

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

9. Training

At Family Care Schools all staff receive training in attachment theory and in Reflective Therapeutic Intervention and the ethos of these approaches underpins all of our delivery of RSE. Those school staff responsible for the delivery of PSHE will take the main responsibility for delivering RSE, accessing training as required. All staff are expected to role model positive relationships.

The head of school will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, as appropriate to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.



10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Head Teacher through student questionnaire and feedback as well as student council.

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

This policy will be reviewed by the head teacher. At every review, the policy will be approved by Director with line management responsibility for the school.



Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Relationships and Sex Education curriculum map for secondary age students

TOPIC	KEY STAGE	STUDENTS WILL BE TAUGHT
Positive relationships	Key Stage 3	<p>R1. about different types of relationships, including those within families, friendships, romantic or intimate relationships and the factors that can affect them</p> <p>R2. indicators of positive, healthy relationships and unhealthy relationships, including online</p> <p>R3. about the similarities, differences and diversity among people of different race, culture, ability, sex, gender identity, age and sexual orientation</p> <p>R4. the difference between biological sex, gender identity and sexual orientation</p> <p>R5. to recognise that sexual attraction and sexuality are diverse</p> <p>R6. that marriage is a legal, social and emotional commitment that should be entered into freely, and never forced upon someone through threat or coercion</p> <p>R7. how the media portrays relationships and the potential impact of this on people's expectations of relationships</p> <p>R8. that the portrayal of sex in the media and social media (including pornography) can affect people's expectations of relationships and sex</p>



Positive relationships	Key Stage 4	<p>R1. the characteristics and benefits of strong, positive relationships, including mutual support, trust, respect, and equality (covered spring1)</p> <p>R2. the role of pleasure in intimate relationships, including orgasms</p> <p>R3. to respond appropriately to indicators of unhealthy relationships, including seeking help where necessary</p> <p>R4. the importance of stable, committed relationships, including the rights and protections provided within legally recognised marriages and civil partnerships and the legal status of other long-term relationships</p> <p>R5. the legal rights, responsibilities and protections provided by the Equality Act 2010</p> <p>R6. about diversity in romantic and sexual attraction and developing sexuality, including sources of support and reassurance and how to access them</p> <p>R7. strategies to access reliable, accurate and appropriate advice and support with relationships, and to assist others to access it when needed</p> <p>R8. to understand the potential impact of the portrayal of sex in pornography and other media, including on sexual attitudes, expectations, and behaviours</p>
Relationship values	Key Stage 3	<p>R9. to clarify and develop personal values in friendships, love and sexual relationships</p> <p>R10. the importance of trust in relationships and the behaviours that can undermine or build trust 2</p> <p>R11. to evaluate expectations about gender roles, behaviour and intimacy within romantic relationships</p> <p>R12. that everyone has the choice to delay sex, or to enjoy intimacy without sex</p>
Relationship values	Key Stage 4	<p>R9. to recognise, clarify and if necessary, challenge their own values and understand how their values influence their decisions, goals, and behaviours</p> <p>R10. to understand a variety of faith and cultural practices and beliefs concerning relationships and sexual activity; to respect the role these might play in relationship values</p>



<p>Forming and maintaining respectful relationships</p>	<p>Key Stage 3</p>	<p>R13. how to form, maintain and manage positive relationships, including online safely and responsibly</p> <p>R14. the qualities and behaviours they should expect and exhibit in a wide variety of positive relationships (including in school and wider society, family, and friendships, including online)</p> <p>R15. to further develop and rehearse the skills of team working</p> <p>R16. to further develop the skills of active listening, clear communication, negotiation, and compromise</p> <p>R17. strategies to identify and reduce risk from people online that they do not already know, when and how to access help</p> <p>R18. to manage the strong feelings that relationships can cause (including sexual attraction)</p> <p>R19. to develop conflict management skills and strategies to reconcile after disagreements</p> <p>R20. to manage the influence of drugs and alcohol on decision-making within relationships and social situations</p> <p>R21. how to manage the breakdown of a relationship (including its digital legacy), loss and change in relationships</p> <p>R22. the effects of change, including loss, separation, divorce, and bereavement; strategies for managing these and accessing support</p> <p>R23. the services available to support healthy relationships and manage unhealthy relationships, and how to access them</p>
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<p>Forming and maintaining respectful relationships</p>	<p>Key Stage 4</p>	<p>R11. strategies to manage the strong emotions associated with the different stages of relationships</p> <p>R12. to manage changes safely and responsibly in personal relationships including the ending of relationships</p> <p>R13. ways to manage grief about changing relationships including the impact of separation, divorce, and bereavement; sources of support and how to access them</p> <p>R14. the opportunities and potential risks of establishing and conducting relationships online, and strategies to manage the risks</p> <p>R15. the legal and ethical responsibilities people have in relation to online aspects of relationships</p> <p>R16. to recognise unwanted attention (such as harassment and stalking including online), ways to respond and how to seek help</p> <p>R17. ways to access information and support for relationships including those experiencing difficulties</p>
<p>Consent</p>	<p>Key Stage 3</p>	<p>R24. that consent is freely given; that being pressurised, manipulated, or coerced to agree to something is not giving consent, and how to seek help in such circumstances</p> <p>R25. about the law relating to sexual consent</p> <p>R26. how to seek, give, not give, and withdraw consent (in all contexts, including online)</p> <p>R27. that the seeker of consent is legally and morally responsible for ensuring that consent has been given; that if consent is not given or is withdrawn, that decision should always be respected</p> <p>R28. to gauge readiness for sexual intimacy</p> <p>R29. the impact of sharing sexual images of others without consent</p> <p>R30. how to manage any request or pressure to share an image of themselves or others, and how to get help</p> <p>R31. that intimate relationships should be pleasurable</p>



Consent	Key Stage 4	<p>R18. about the concept of consent in maturing relationships</p> <p>R19. about the impact of attitudes towards sexual assault and to challenge victim blaming, including when abuse occurs online</p> <p>R20. to recognise the impact of drugs and alcohol on choices and sexual behaviour</p> <p>R21. the skills to assess their readiness for sex, including sexual activity online, as an individual and within a couple</p> <p>R22. to evaluate different motivations and contexts in which sexual images are shared, and possible legal, emotional and social consequences</p>
Contraception and parenthood	Key Stage 3	<p>R32. the communication and negotiation skills necessary for contraceptive use in healthy relationships (see also 'Health')</p> <p>R33. the risks related to unprotected sex</p> <p>R34. the consequences of unintended pregnancy, sources of support and the options available</p> <p>R35. the roles and responsibilities of parents, carers and children in families</p> <p>R36. the nature and importance of stable, long-term relationships (including marriage and civil partnerships) for family life and bringing up children</p>
Contraception and parenthood	Key Stage 4	<p>R23. how to choose and access appropriate contraception (including emergency contraception) and negotiate contraception use with a partner</p> <p>R24. the physical and emotional responses people may have to unintended pregnancy; the different options available; whom to talk to for accurate, impartial advice and support</p> <p>R25. the importance of parenting skills and qualities for family life, the implications of young parenthood and services that offer support for new parents and families</p> <p>R26. the reasons why people choose to adopt/foster children</p> <p>R27. about the current legal position on abortion and the range of beliefs and opinions about it.</p>



Appendix 2: By the time students join us at KS4 they should already know the following:

TOPIC	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability • The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives • That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care • That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up • That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong • How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends • The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded • That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right • How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed



TOPIC	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships• The conventions of courtesy and manners• The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness• 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 those in positions of authority• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help• What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive• The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not• That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous• The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them• How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met• How information and data is shared and used online

TOPIC	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context) • About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe • That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know • How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult • How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard • How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so • Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources

Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school students should know

TOPIC	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

TOPIC	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
<p>Respectful relationships, including friendships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 student		Tutor	
Name of parent		Date	
Confirmation of parental responsibility			
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			