OVERSTONE PARK SCHOOL

RSHE Policy



Relationship, Sex, Health Education Policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinator
August 2025	August 2026	Mrs M Brown - Principal

Introduction

The school's RSHE curriculum has five key principles in mind:-

- 1. RSHE should teach children about the law, in addition to the importance of tolerance and respect for everyone in the school community and beyond.
- 2. The curriculum should seek to keep children safe and informed about growing up and the challenges this may present, how relationships develop and how to be safe once sexually active. It should enable topics to be taught appropriately by a trusted adult and help ensure that prevention of harm and early intervention are supported.
- 3. Schools should follow the age limits set out in the guidance to ensure pupils don't learn about sensitive topics earlier than is necessary or at an inappropriate stage of their development.
- 4. Schools should be transparent with parents about all materials used in RSE, and all materials should be available to parents, as described in the section on openness with parents below.
- 5. Parents have a right to request that their children are withdrawn from sex education.

The school's Relationships Education & Relationships and Sex Education policy is based on the statutory guidance document Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (as part of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education) (DfE, updated September 2021), Relationships Education (Primary) (DfE, updated September 2021), Relationships and Sex

Education (Secondary) and the PSHE Association's supplementary guidance (PSHE Association)

Within this policy, as in the DfE guidance, Relationships Education is defined as teaching about the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults. Furthermore, it is learning about the physical, social, legal and emotional aspects of human relationships including friendships, intimate, sexual and committed relationships and family life.

At Overstone Park School we use a gender equity and human rights framework for Relationships Education. To cover the curriculum content in the RSHE Guidance, we will

equip our pupils to build positive and respectful relationships on and offline. We seek to ensure that it gives pupils the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will help them to:

- Realise their health, wellbeing and dignity.
- Build self-esteem and self-worth.
- Explore and value their personal identity and the identities of others.
- Explore a range of family structures, including LGBTQIA+ families and other family structures understand and make sense of the real-life issues they are experiencing in the world around them.
- Manage and explore difficult feelings and emotions.
- Consider how their choices affect their own wellbeing and that of others.
- Develop as informed and responsible citizens.
- Understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives.

We believe that Relationships Education is vital for the personal, social and emotional development of our pupils. It equips children and young people with the information, skills and values they need to have safe, respectful and enjoyable relationships.

We believe that all our pupils have a right to holistic, inclusive and needs-led Relationships Education. We believe that through providing high quality Relationships Education, we are upholding the ethos and values of this school and its commitment to equality and celebration of difference. This policy was produced in consultation with our staff, governing body, pupils and parents. We will ensure the policy is effectively communicated to staff and parents, including through publishing the policy on our school website. The information below complies with our statutory obligations to deliver Relationships Education under sections 34 & 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. It will have due regard for the statutory Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Guidance and other relevant guidance. We will review the policy on a regular basis to ensure that it is in line with current Government guidance and legislation and to ensure that our programme continues to meet the needs of our pupils.

We believe that Relationships Education is a key vehicle for promoting equality, inclusion and social justice. Our Relationships Education is designed to promote gender equality through challenging gender stereotypes, sexism and sexual harassment in schools. We take these issues seriously and ensure that we embed content on gender equality throughout the curriculum.

We are also committed to a Relationships Education that makes every pupil feel valued and included and is relevant to them. This means we are committed to an LGBTQI+ inclusive and SEND inclusive curriculum and are mindful of the SEND Code of Practice 2014 when planning for this subject. We will also ensure that we take into account the religious and cultural background of all pupils when teaching Relationships Education. An inclusive Relationships Education at School will seek to challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice between pupils and promote understanding and respect as outlined under the Equality Act 2010.

We define sex education as teaching our pupils about the physical, social, legal and emotional aspects of human sexuality and behaviour, including human reproduction. This includes conception and contraception, safer sex, sexually transmitted infections and sexual health. This draws on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science, as well as those related elements (the physical changes associated with puberty) within statutory Health Education.

In our school, we believe that there is a need to teach age and developmentally appropriate sex education as part of our Relationships Education. We take the approach that Relationships and sex education are best approached in an integrated way. We will take care to highlight lessons that contain what we define as sex education so that we can respect the wishes of parents who have withdrawn their children from this content. Simultaneously, we will seek to nurture our pupil's curiosity about the world around them, supporting their development and their respect for themselves and each other.

RSE is lifelong learning about personal, physical, moral and emotional development. It is set in the context of clear values about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care and for family life. It should teach children and young people to develop and form positive values, attitudes, personal and social skills, and increase their knowledge and understanding of how to make informed decisions and life choices.

The policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies: Anti-bullying policy, Behaviour,

Rewards & Sanctions policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, PSHE, science curriculum, ESafety and Use of ICT policy, Diversity Policy, British Values Policy and School Complaints policy.

This policy is updated annually following review and feedback from teachers and pupils on RSE provision and annual meeting with parents.

Aims & Objectives

The teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is a partnership between home and School

The School aims to provide a safe, positive and respectful environment in which all members of the school community can learn about RSE and grow in confidence, knowledge and skills, which supports the essential role of parents in providing this education.

RSE at Overstone Park School is underpinned by our Core values and ethos within our school.

Through our PSHE programme we aim to provide children with the knowledge, skills and understanding of healthy and respectful relationships and appropriate boundaries.

We consider effective RSE to be a fundamental part of our approach to supporting pupils to grow into empathetic, responsible and respectful young citizens who lead confident, healthy, independent lives and who have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships.

At Overstone Park School RSE is about learning the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sexual reproduction, human sexuality and sexual health. The aim is to encourage children to take responsibility for their sexual health and wellbeing and build healthy, compassionate relationships.

We recognise that our pupils come from a diverse variety of families. All teaching at Overstone Park School, including the specific RSE education, will aim to support all pupils equally and to encourage the celebration of diversity, whilst respect for one another remains the underlying principle.

Delivery and Training

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) forms part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum in our school.

PSHE lessons are taught by form teachers and mentors supported by expert visitors as appropriate and necessary. They are delivered in an age-appropriate and sensitive manner as part of our regular weekly timetabled PSHE sessions.

Teaching staff receive training in the delivery of the RSE curriculum through staff meetings led by the Deputy Head Pastoral/ Head of PSHE/ PSHE Lead, with the support of external experts as required.

As a school we are aware that the primary responsibility for providing children's RSE lies with parents and carers. We recognise the need to work with parents and carers to ensure a shared understanding of RSE and to deliver an effective programme that meets the needs of our pupils.

RSE is part of a broader PSHE programme of study, in which many aspects of human relationships are explored. Progression is ensured between Pre-Prep, Prep and Seniors through regular liaison and sharing of resources and plans as appropriate.

RSE is delivered predominantly by form teachers in mixed gender groups, other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups.

Guest speakers: We sometimes use outside speakers to complement our teaching of this content, who are asked to work within the framework of the school's Relationship and Sex Education policy and adhere to the policy and guidelines for visiting speakers. A teacher will be present throughout these lessons.

RSE Curriculum & Themes covered

Effective Relationships & Sex Education can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain positive, healthy relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

At Overstone Park School Pre-Prep (R - Year 2), the Prep School (Years 3-8) and Senior (Years 9-11) we use the Jigsaw Scheme of Work for PSHE, which is accredited by the PSHE Association.

Jigsaw is a comprehensive scheme of planning and resources, which is regularly updated on its online portal to ensure it remains relevant, engaging to children and meets all statutory requirements of PSHE. Years 12 & 13 use a separate programme of study which covers some of the over-arching Jigsaw themes to ensure consistency.

As is required by the new statutory guidance, parents are consulted on the relevant content within the policy. We believe that this process ensures that the curriculum we provide for our pupils is reflective of the requirements placed upon us and also of the needs of our school community.

Form teachers and mentors review the planning and resources for each lesson to ensure they are fully relevant and accessible to the needs of children in their classes and tailor them if necessary. Additional resources may be used if considered appropriate.

In each year group, lessons will recap and build on the content of previous years as a reminder and to allow for children to "catch up" if they were not present for the previous year's lessons.

As is legally prescribed, parents have a right to withdraw their children from these addition al non-statutory sex education lessons - please see the relevant section within this policy in regard to this process.

An overview of our RSE schedule as part of the PSHE programme (in addition to biology taught within science lessons can be found as part of Appendix 1.

Monitoring and Review

Our aim is to provide RSE that is relevant and tailored to meet the needs of our pupils, depending on their age and stage of personal development. For this reason, we regularly review the RSE curriculum to evaluate its effectiveness.

Given the nature of Relationship and Sex Education, formal lesson observations are not always appropriate. Staff delivering PSHE meets with the deputy head who in turn meet with their year group form teachers, reacting to current situations and adapting the curriculum accordingly. In the Senior School and Pre- Prep, the PSHE Lead meets with form teachers or those delivering the RSE material to discuss adapting the curriculum to suit current situations. The elements which are reviewed and considered are:

- The resources and methods used as well as their appropriateness and effectiveness;
- The reaction of the pupils to the lessons and materials;

• The inclusion of new/ additional topics that may need to be covered;

The policy is made available to all staff and parents on the school website. This ensures the wider staff body and parents are aware of what is being taught so that they are prepared to support the emotional needs of the children.

Safeguarding

In providing children with an understanding of healthy relationships and appropriate boundaries, we consider RSE to be an important part of our school's approach to safeguarding. Staff receive training that should any pupils make a disclosure, they must follow the School's Safeguarding Policy and report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or any member of the Safeguarding team as a matter of priority. Any incident involving sexual misconduct is taken extremely seriously and is investigated thoroughly, potentially involving third party organisations. This is in line with the whole school Safeguarding and Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policies.

We occasionally engage the expertise of other appropriate external partners to work with us to provide advice and support to children regarding RSE and Health Education.

Staff regularly receive safeguarding training and are alert to possible signs of abuse, neglect and harassment including child-on-child abuse, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, criminal exploitation, serious youth violence, county lines and radicalization amongst others.

In the case of a disclosure, all staff will reassure victims that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.

All staff are aware that children may not feel ready or know how to tell someone that they are being abused, exploited, or neglected, and/or they may not recognise their experiences as harmful.

Staff are particularly aware of pupils with particular vulnerabilities including those with SEND or those who are LGBTQIA+.

In all cases, if staff are unsure, they should always speak to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or a deputy (DDSL).

Parental rights

Our RSE curriculum is designed to support and complement RSE provision provided by parents and carers. We aim to build a positive and supportive relationship with parents and carers through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

The school aims to keep parents informed about all aspects of the RSE curriculum and urges parents to review this policy. RSE is a vital part of the school curriculum and supports the whole development of the child. All parents are directed towards the main policies on the school website, including this RSE policy, which makes them aware of their statutory rights.

We recognise that parents have the final decision about their child's Relationship and Sex Education up to when the child is 16 years old. Some of the topics discussed may be deemed inappropriate to the background and beliefs of individual parents and their children. In such cases, we fully respect and uphold the rights of parents to withdraw their children from aspects of the course. Alternative arrangements will be made for pupils in these circumstances; usually, this will involve independent study in the library or similar location. The right to withdraw from lessons relates only to Sex Education, and not to the teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction.

If parents have any queries or wish to withdraw their child from Relationship and Sex Education, they should contact the Principal Deputy Head Pastoral/ Head of PSHE/ PSHE Lead who will then liaise with the pupil's Form Tutor.

Review and evaluation:

The educational and personal needs of our pupils develop in line with varying societal pressures and other changes. For this reason, we regularly review our RSE curriculum. This policy will be reviewed annually.

Principal	Mrs M Brown	Date:	August 2025

<u>Appendix 1</u>

Year group & timing	Topics	Delivered By
EYFS		Form Tutors
Autumn	Celebrating Difference Identifying talents Being special Families Where we live Making friends Standing up for yourself Form teachers	
Spring	Relationships Family life Friendships Breaking friendships Falling out Dealing with bullying Being a good friend	
Summer	Changing me Bodies Respecting my body Growing up Growth and change Fun and fears Celebrations	

Year 1 Form Tutors

Autumn Celebrating Difference

Similarities and differences Understanding bullying and knowing how to deal with it Making new friends Celebrating the differences in everyone

Spring Relationships

Belonging to a family
Making friends/being a good friend
Physical contact preferences
People who help us
Qualities as a friend and person
Self-acknowledgement
Being a good friend to myself
Celebrating special relationships

Summer Changing me

Life cycles - animal and human
Changes in me
Changes since being a baby
Differences between female and male bodies
(correct terminology)
Linking growing and learning
Coping with change
Transition

Year group & timing

Topics

Delivered By

Year 2 Form Tutors

Autumn Celebrating Difference

Assumptions and stereotypes about gender

Understanding bullying

Standing up for self and others

Making new friends Gender diversity

Celebrating difference and remaining friends

Different types of family

Spring Relationships

Physical contact boundaries

Friendship and conflict

Secrets

Trust and appreciation

Expressing appreciation for special relationships

Summer Changing me

Life cycles in nature

Growing from young to old Increasing independence

Differences in female and male bodies (correct terminology)

Assertiveness

Preparing for transition

Year 3 Form Tutors

Autumn Celebrating Difference (CD)

Families & their differences
Family conflict & how to manage it
Witnessing bullying & how to solve it
Recognising how words can be hurtful
Giving and receiving compliments

Spring Relationships (RL)

Family roles and responsibilities
Friendship and negotiation
Keeping safe online and who to go to for help
Being a global citizen
Being aware of how my choices affect others
Awareness of how other children have different lives
Expressing appreciation for family and friends

Summer Changing me (CM)

How babies grow Understanding a baby's needs Outside body changes Inside body changes Family stereotypes Challenging my ideas

Year 4 Form Tutors

Autumn Celebrating Difference (CD)

Challenging assumptions
Judging by appearance
Accepting self and others
Understanding influences
Understanding bullying
Problem-solving
Identifying how special/unique everyone is
First impressions

Spring Relationships (RL)

Jealousy
Love and loss
Memories of loved ones
Getting on and falling out
Girlfriends and boyfriends
Showing appreciation to people and animals

Summer Changing Me (CM)

Being unique
Having a baby
Girls and puberty
Confidence in change
Accepting change

Year 5 Science

Teachers

Autumn Reproduction (Science)

Difference between sexual and asexual reproduction
Understand the process of fertilisation
Understand what a zygote is
Understand about changes during puberty
Understand the process of sexual reproduction in humans
Understand how a baby develops in the womb

Celebrating Difference (CD)

Form Tutors

Cultural differences and how they can cause conflict Racism Rumours and name-calling Types of bullying

Spring Relationships (RL)

Self-recognition and self-worth Building self-esteem Safer online communities Rights and responsibilities online Online gaming and gambling Reducing screen time Dangers of online grooming SMART internet safety rules

Summer Changing Me (CM)

Self and body image
Influence of online and media on body image
Puberty for girls
Puberty for boys
Conception (including IVF)
Growing responsibility
Coping with change

Year 6 Form Tutors

Autumn Celebrating Difference (CD)

Perceptions of normality Understanding disability Power struggles Understanding bullying Inclusion/exclusion Difference as conflict Difference as celebration Empathy

Spring Relationships (RL)

Mental health
Identifying mental health worries and sources of support
Love and loss
Managing feelings
Power and control
Assertiveness
Technology safety
Take responsibility with technology use

Summer Changing Me (CM)

Self-image
Body image
Puberty and feelings
Conception to birth
Reflections about change
Physical attraction
Respect and consent
Boyfriends/girlfriends
Sexting
Transition to Senior School

Teachers

systems

Year 7 Form Tutors

Autumn Celebrating Difference (CD)

Bullying

Prejudice and discrimination

Equality Act Bystanders Stereotyping

Challenging negative behaviour and attitudes

Spring Reproduction (Science) Science

Identify the key parts of the female and male reproductive

Understand the process of sexual reproduction Understand the stages of labour

Understand the stages of labour

Summer Relationships (RL) Form Tutors

Characteristics of healthy relationships Healthy romantic relationships

Consent

Relationships and change Emotions within friendships Being discerning Assertiveness Sexting

Changing Me (CM)

Puberty changes
FGM & breast flattening
Responsibilities of parenthood
Types of committed relationships
Media and self-esteem
Self-image
Brain changes in puberty
Sources of help and support

Year 8 Form Tutors

Autumn

Celebrating Difference (CD)

Positive change made by others

How positive behaviour affects feelings of wellbeing

Social injustice

Inequality

Community cohesion and support

Multiculturalism

Race and religion

Prejudice

LGBT+

Bullying

Spring

Relationships (RL)

Positive relationship with self

Social media and relationship with self

Negative self-talk

Managing a range of relationships

Personal space

Online etiquette

Online privacy and personal safety

Coercion

Unhealthy balance of power in relationships

Sources of support

Summer

Changing Me (CM)

Types of close intimate relationships

Physical attraction

Legal status of relationships

Behaviours in healthy and unhealthy romantic relationships

Pornography

Sexuality

Alcohol and risky behaviour

Year 9 Form Tutors

Autumn

Being Me

Perceptions about intimate relationships

Consent

Sexual exploitation

Peer approval

Peer on peer abuse

Grooming

Radicalisation

County lines

Risky experimentation

Positive and negative self-identity

Groups and influences

Social media

Abuse and coercion

Coercive control

Celebrating Difference

Protected characteristics

Equality Act

Phobic and racist language

Legal consequences of bullying and hate crime

Sexism

Ageism

Positive and negative language

Banter

Peer on peer abuse

Bullying in the workplace

Direct and indirect discrimination

Harassment

Victimisation

Prejudice

Discrimination

Stereotyping

Spring

Dreams & Goals

Personal strengths

Health goals

SMART planning

The world of work

Links between body image and mental health

Non-financial dreams and goals
Mental health and ill health
Media manipulation
Self-harm
Self-esteem
Stigma
Anxiety disorders
Eating disorders
Depression

Healthy Me

Misperceptions about young peoples' health choices
Physical and psychological effects of drugs and alcohol
Alcohol and the law
Alcohol and drug poisoning
Addiction
Smoking
Vaping
Drug classification
Supply and possession legislation
Emergency situations
First aid
CPR
Substances and safety
Sources of advice and support

Summer

Relationships

Healthy relationships
Power and control in intimate relationships
Risk in intimate relationships
Importance of sexual consent
Assertiveness skills
Sex and the law
Pornography and stereotypes
Contraception choices
Age of consent
Family planning
Consequences of unprotected sex
STIs
Support and advice services

Changing Me

Mental health stigma Triggers Support strategies
Managing emotional changes
Resilience and how to improve it
Reflection on importance of sleep in relation to mental
health

Reflection on changes Benefits of relaxation

Year group & timing

Topics

Delivered By

Year 10 Form Tutors

External RSE Workshops

Autumn Being Me

Human rights

Societal freedom

Understanding safety in UK and beyond

Ending relationships safely

Stages of grief, loss and bereavement

Peer on peer abuse

Social media and culture

Use of online data

Threats to online safety

Online identity

Assessing and managing risk

The law and social media

Risk and emergency contacts

Positive and negative relationships

Celebrating Difference

Equality including in the workplace, in society and in relationships

Equality Act 2010

Vulnerable groups including disability and hidden disability

Workplace expectations

Rights and responsibilities

Power and control in relationships

Coercive control

Benefits of multicultural societies

Equity, equality and inequality

My health

Spring Dreams & Goals

Impact of physical health in reaching goals

Relationships and reaching goals

Resilience

Work/life balance

Connections and impact on mental health

Balanced diet, vital organs, blood donation

Benefits of helping others

Online profile and impact on future goals and employability

Healthy Me

Improving health

Mental health

Sexual health

Blood-borne infections

Self-examination

Diet and long-term health

Misuse of prescription drugs

Substances and the body

Common mental health disorders

Positive impact of volunteering

Common threats to health including chronic disease,

epidemics, misuse of antibiotics

Organ donation

Stem cells

Summer

Relationships

Sustaining long-term relationships

Intimacy

Healthy relationship with self

Attraction, love, lust

Relationship choices

Ending relationships safely

Consequences of relationships ending e.g. bullying, peer on peer abuse, revenge porn, grief-cycle, impact on family

Understanding love

Fake news

Pornography

Changing Me

Impact of societal change on young people

Role of media on societal change

Reflection on change so far and how to manage it

successfully

Decision making

Sexual identity

Gender

Spectrum of sexuality

Stereotypes in romantic relationships

Sexual identity and risk

Physical and emotional changes

Family change

Sources of support

Year 11 Form Tutors

Autumn Being Me in My World

Becoming an adult

Age limits and the law relationships and the law

Consent

Coercive control

Child on child abuse

Domestic abuse

Honour-based, violence

Arranged and forced marriages

The Equality Act 2010

The law on internet use and pornography

Social media concerns

Sexting keeping safe

Emergency situations, key advice, first aid, scenarios &

Consequences.

Spring Healthy Me

Managing anxiety and stress

Exam pressure

Concentration strategies

Work-life balance

Sexual health

Hygiene

Self- examination

STIs

Sexual pressure

Fertility issues

Contraception

Consent

Pregnancy facts and myths

Pregnancy choices including adoption, abortion, bringing

up a

baby, financial implications

Identifying a range of risks including rape & strategies for

staying safe

Expectations in relationships

Summer Relationships

Stages of intimate relationships

Positive and negative connotations of sex

Spectrum of gender and sexuality
LGBT+ rights and protection under the Equality Act
"Coming out" challenges
LGBT+ media stereotypes
Peer on peer abuse
Power, control and sexual experimentation
Forced marriage
Honour-based violence
FGM and other abuses
Hate crime
Sources of support

Year group & timing	Topics	Delivered By
Year 12		Form Tutors
Autumn	Health & Wellbeing	
	Consent Sexual Harassment	
Spring	Relationships	
	Types of Relationships Managing healthy & unhealt Meeting people online & on The realities of STIs, contrac	•
Year group & timing	Topics	Delivered By
Year 13		Form Tutors
Autumn	Health & Wellbeing	
	Pressure points in future	
Spring	Relationships	
	Looking at gender norms ar the workplace Staying safe in New Context Staying Safe in New Context Consent at University	O 1