



Ifield Community College - Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Approved by Governing Body: 14th March 2024

Date of next Review: March 2025

Signed:

Chair of Governors

1. Aims

The aims of sex and relationship 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 and an understanding of the individuality of all students and their relationships
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and including an understanding of trans identities
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- Develop positive attitudes towards all types of family relationships including same sex relationships or relationships which include trans people

This links to our school aims “To smile and laugh in a respectful, positive community.”

2. Statutory requirements

Under [section 3.6 of the National Curriculum](#), RSE is compulsory from year 7 onwards.

Secondary schools must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 404 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

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
2. 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 invited to attend a meeting about the policy
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 and gender identity.

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

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE/RSHE) education curriculum which is delivered through RSHE days and through mentor time activities including assemblies. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Education).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by trained health professionals as part of their PSHE programme.

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions
- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness
- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision-making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work

These skills are taught within the context of family life.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The governing body

The governing body will scrutinise and approve the RSE policy, and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

6.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of RSE (see section 7).

6.3 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 sex education only. Relationships education is compulsory.

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.

6.4 Pupils

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

7. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education. The relationships component of RSE is compulsory.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing 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 and take appropriate action.

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

8. Training RSE

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE and it is included in our continuing professional development work.

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.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Elaine Murphy-Dunn, Assistant Headteacher and the Director of Science through:

Scrutiny of planning for RSHE days and learning walks

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

This policy will be reviewed by Elaine Murphy-Dunn. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body