



**Clevedon  
School**

## **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

**Date approved by Clevedon School LGB: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**Signed: Sue Meaker, Chair of LGB**

**Review Date: July 2025**

## 1. Definition and Aims

RSE (relationships 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.

RSE involves a combination of sharing factual information, exploring issues and values, and developing skills and attributes.

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at Clevedon School are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place;
- Provide students with an understanding / revisit existing understandings of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene, and support students through this development;
- Help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy; and the skills to be able to make positive informed choices in the future;
- Create a positive, inclusive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships;
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to use when discussing issues related to sexuality and relationships;
- Provide factual knowledge about relevant age-related issues linked to healthy relationships and positive sexual health;
- Signpost students to recommended sources of support e.g. Kooth;
- Encourage students to 'Be Kind, Be Brilliant' in their relationships with others, in line with Clevedon School's core values and ethos.

## 2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy school we must provide RSE to all students as per the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

In teaching RSE, we are 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. At Clevedon School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

## 3. Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed as a curriculum to build on existing knowledge and develop relevant understanding and skills through age-related content as students progress through the school.

- **Year 7:** Healthy and unhealthy relationships / early questions about sexual relationships such as 'is there a 'right time'? / 'What is 'normal'?'
- **Year 8:** Healthy and unhealthy romantic / sexual relationships / myths and misconceptions about sexual relationships.
- **Year 9:** Safer sex – exploring physical and emotional risks associated with sexual relationships and ways to reduce these associated risks. Includes basic consent, contraception and pornography.
- **Year 10:** Safer sex – builds on year 9 content to explore further mental and physical sexual health – associated knowledge, risks and ways to stay safe. Includes a detailed look at consent and the law, including issues such as revenge porn.
- **Year 11:** Safer sex – builds on years 9 & 10 content to explore further consent and the law including sexual harassment and statutory rape, and exploring relevant case studies for students to be aware of.

This curriculum has been developed as a staff team working together to consider the needs of students at Clevedon School. Parents and students will also be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the RSE curriculum and its delivery in school. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this planned curriculum, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are either informed, or given appropriate and safe advice.

## 4. Delivery of RSE

RSE is predominately taught within the PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) element of Citizenship lessons at Clevedon School (separate Citizenship PSHE Policy). Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious studies lessons at KS4, feature lecture sessions in KS5, and reading plus lessons in KS3. An annual audit of content covered across the school is carried out in Term 6.

In Years 7 & 8, Citizenship is taught for one session every two weeks throughout the academic year by a core team of staff which includes the four Heads of House. In Years 9, 10 & 11 Citizenship is taught in collapsed Option block sessions for one session every term, 6 times a year. RSE content is a focus of the curriculum later in the academic year.

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

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).

## **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

- This RSE policy has been approved by the governing body, who then hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.
- The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team Lead for PSHE/RSE is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 8).
- Staff are responsible for:
  - Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
  - Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
  - Responding to the needs of individual pupils
  - Completing necessary training as requested by the headteacher/SLT Lead
- 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 / SLT Lead.
- The SLT Lead for PSHE/RSE is Mrs. Claire Murray.
- Students are expected to fully engage in RSE lessons and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

## **6. Parents' right to withdraw**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory elements 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.

There is no right to withdraw from the relationships elements of the RSE curriculum, in line with government guidance, due to the importance of issues such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) being taught to all young people.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Headteacher, Mr. Jim Smith.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record and the request will be discussed with parents so that appropriate action can be taken. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

## **7. Training**

All staff are trained on some basic elements of RSE delivery through annual Safeguarding and Professional Development Training. Staff who teach RSE key content through Citizenship are required to complete additional in school training provided both in person and recorded. Staff are also encouraged to complete optional additional RSE training available online, such as via the National College resource Hub.

Visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, may also be invited to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

The SLT Lead for PSHE/RSE has completed relevant training for the implementation of the September 2020 RSE curriculum developments, and will continue to keep up to date with any further training from the Bristol RSE Hub/PSHE Association and Local Authority PSHE Network.

## **8. Monitoring Arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the SLT Lead for PSHE/RSE, Mrs. Claire Murray, through:

- The regular reviewing, updating, and quality assuring of lesson resources.
- The training and support of staff teaching RSE.
- SLT Learning walks during RSE lessons.
- Working closely with colleagues including the Heads of House, and Safeguarding team to review RSE across the school, student engagement in this, and be aware of issues affecting students at Clevedon School.