

Relationships and Sex Education Policy and Statement



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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at The Spires College 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

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained secondary school we must provide RSE to all students as per the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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

At The Spires College we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, students 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. Student consultation – we investigated what exactly students 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 students, 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.

5. Curriculum

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, students and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of students. If students 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. We may need to adapt the curriculum as and when necessary.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal development (PD) and physical education (PE) curricula. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum.

The Head of Personal Development works closely with the SEND team in the planning and delivery of RSE for those students in specialist provision.

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 and consent
- ▲ 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, LGBT 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).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy and hold the Principal to account for its implementation.

7.2 The Principal

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

7.3 Staff

The Head of Personal Development is responsible for constructing the RSE curriculum and monitoring the quality of teaching of the subject.

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 the non-statutory components of RSE

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 Principal.

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 non-statutory 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 College will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 1 of this policy and addressed to the Principal.

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

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

Parents do not have the right to withdraw from relationships education or health education.

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development cycle.

The Principal 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.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Heads of Year and Senior Leadership Team through the college monitoring and self-evaluation process.

Students' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers.

This policy will be reviewed by the Head of Personal Development annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

11. Record of changes

September 2023

Page 4 Curriculum	Reference to Appendix 1 removed
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Appendix 1: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Tutor Group	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the college to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE COLLEGE	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	