

Relationships and Sex Education Policy



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Version Control

Issue	Date	Amended by	Summary of changes
May 2026	May 2026	Michelle Ridsdale	Updated Appendix 1 with table for schools to complete

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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at Forward As One CE MAT Schools 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
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

As a group of primary academies we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

We do not have to follow the National Curriculum but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science which would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

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 **St. John with St. Michael Primary School** we teach RSE as set out in this policy and with due regard to the school's Safeguarding Policy and Equality and Accessibility Plan.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation (January 2021) 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 including working where relevant with external agencies.
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 identity.

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

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary. Each school has a PSHE and RSE Curriculum Handbook that outlines the curriculum aims, long term and medium-term plans including curricular links.

Please refer to individual school websites for details of individual policies.

Our curriculum is tailored for our schools' context. Appendix 1 will also state which external agencies the school will work with (where appropriate)

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, considering the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils 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.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE 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).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

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) 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 Local Advisory Board (LAB)

The LAB will approve the RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from [non-statutory/non-science] 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 pupils

- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the [non-statutory/non-science] 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 headteacher.

7.4 Pupils

Pupils 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 do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

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

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Headteacher and PSHE Lead through:

- Planning and work scrutiny
- Lesson observations and drop-ins
- Learning walks
- Pupil Voice
- Staff Voice
- Parental Voice

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

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher and PSHE Lead on a bi-annual basis. At every review, the policy will be approved by Local Advisory Board.

Appendix 1: Curriculum Map: RSE

Year group progression

The same themes are revisited each year, with increasing depth:

- **EYFS:** Families, friendships, similarities and differences, growing up.
- **Year 1–2:** Healthy friendships, family life, keeping safe, body parts, growing and changing.
- **Year 3–4:** Wider relationships, personal boundaries, puberty begins (typically Year 4), changes in the body.
- **Year 5–6:** Puberty, reproduction, conception and birth (Year 6), healthy relationships, consent, transition to secondary school.

This structure ensures pupils build their knowledge progressively through a spiral curriculum, revisiting key concepts in greater depth each year while meeting the statutory requirements for Relationships Education and Health Education.

YEAR GROUP	RELATIONSHIPS – SUMMER 1	CHANGING ME – SUMMER 2	RESOURCES
EYFS	Making friends, being kind, working and playing together, families, people who help us, caring relationships.	Growing up, how we have changed since being babies, body parts, keeping healthy, moving to Year 1.	https://jigsaweducationgroup.com/

YEAR GROUP	RELATIONSHIPS – SUMMER 1	CHANGING ME – SUMMER 2	RESOURCES
Year 1	Different types of families, special people, making friends, solving friendship problems, recognising who can help us.	Life cycles, growing and changing, identifying body parts (including correct anatomical names), understanding that everyone grows and changes, transition to Year 2.	https://pshe-association.org.uk/
Year 2	Families and caring relationships, trust, secrets and surprises, appreciating others, resolving disagreements respectfully.	Life cycles in nature, growing from young to old, naming body parts, understanding some changes as we grow, preparing for Year 3.	https://www.childline.org.uk/
Year 3	Family roles and responsibilities, friendship skills, keeping safe in relationships, recognising respectful relationships, global family.	How babies grow, outside body changes, introduction to puberty, personal hygiene, transition to Year 4.	https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule/
Year 4	Healthy friendships, love and loss, memories, getting on and falling out, jealousy, online safety, relationships with people around us.	Internal and external body changes during puberty, emotional changes, menstruation introduced, hygiene, preparing for Year 5.	
Year 5	Self-esteem in relationships, online relationships, rights and responsibilities, recognising healthy and unhealthy relationships, managing peer pressure.	Puberty in detail for boys and girls, conception (introduced appropriately), pregnancy, emotional changes, preparing for Year 6.	

YEAR GROUP	RELATIONSHIPS – SUMMER 1	CHANGING ME – SUMMER 2	RESOURCES
Year 6	Mental health and relationships, power and control, consent and respect, managing change in friendships, preparing for secondary school relationships.	Puberty revisited, sexual intercourse, conception, pregnancy and birth, self-image, body image, transition to secondary school.	

Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

Theme / Topic	Knowledge
Families and people who care about me	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	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
Respectful relationships	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	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
Being safe	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
Intimate and sexual relationships including sexual health	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 child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS

Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education

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Any other information you would like the school to consider

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Parent
signature

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TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL

Agreed actions
from discussion
with parents

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