



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

AIMS

The aim of relationships and sex education (RSE) at Hazlegrove is to ensure pupils learn about:

- Different types of relationships, including friendships, family relationships, intimate relationships and dealing with strangers.
- How to recognise, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for others, commitment, tolerance, boundaries, and consent, how to manage conflict, and how to recognise unhealthy relationships. This will include understanding sexual assault and harassment.
- How relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health.
- Healthy, nurturing relationships not just intimate relationships and safety online.
- Factual knowledge around sex, sexual health, safer sex and sexuality and choices around pregnancy, set firmly within the context of relationships.

These aims mirror the core aims of the School:

- To develop a sense of self and well-being in a safe and nurturing environment
- To build a strong day and boarding community, connected to the world, which inspires love, respect, and empathy.
- To develop strong relationships and moral principles

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Under 'Policy statement: relationships education, relationships and sex education, and personal, social, health and economic education', RSE is statutory in all schools. Hazlegrove therefore must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996 and the Equality Act 2010. It runs in conjunction with our Relationships Policy, E-safety Policy, Transgender Policy and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) scheme of work.

DEFINITION

RSE is about the emotional, social, and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity, respect, tolerance, boundaries, and consent. Pupils will learn about how relationships may affect their health and well-being and their safety online. They will understand factual knowledge around sex and choices around pregnancy, set firmly within the context of having a healthy relationship. RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

DELIVERY OF RSE

RSE is taught within the school's Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) framework. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the Science Curriculum. The delivery of RSE at Hazlegrove will not encourage early sexual experimentation. LGBT education is fully integrated into the scheme of work and not delivered as a standalone unit. In PSHE lessons, during Tutor periods and organised Activities, pupils are supported with developing the following skills:

- Self-respect
- Believing and achieving goals
- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness
- Seeking help and support when required
- To make safe, informed, and healthy choices
- Informed decision-making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work

Lessons on RSE will be made accessible to all pupils including those with Special Educational Needs. Hazlegrove does not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their protected characteristics and the school is mindful of the SEND Code of practice. To achieve this, the Head of the Learning Support Unit reviews the scheme of work to ensure it is accessible.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governors

The Governors will approve the RSE policy and hold the Head to account for its implementation.

The Head and RSE Team

The Head 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 6). The Head and RSE Team will work together to review and update the RSE Policy.

The Staff

PSHE teachers are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way without judgement
- 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 components of RSE.
- Adding to the Policy so that it reflects their views.

Teachers do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Those who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Head.

The Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, they are to treat others with respect and sensitivity. This response is in line with our core aims:

- To develop a sense of self and well-being in a safe and nurturing environment.
- To build a strong day and boarding community, connected to the world, which inspires love, respect, and empathy.
- To develop strong relationships and moral principles.

Pupils are encouraged to contribute to the contents of the RSE so that it reflects their views.

Parents

Parents will be informed by letter of the course content, what resources are being used and when topics are being taught before lessons are taught in the Upper School. Parents are also informed that they have the right to withdraw their child from some or all sexual education as part of statutory RSE.

The Whole School Community

It is the responsibility of all members of the community to build a culture where everyday sexism, misogyny, homophobia, and gender stereotypes are not tolerated, and any occurrences are identified and tackled.

PARENTS' RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of RSE. Parents can identify what RSE is being covered by referring to the PHSE scheme of work overview document on request. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Tutor. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Head will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Appropriate alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE.

CONTENT

The subject content of the teaching of Relationships and Sexual Education, when it is taught, how it is taught and by whom, can be found on request. The curriculum overview has been sent to parents.

TRAINING

Staff are encouraged to attend training events organised by the PSHE Association and other bodies.

MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Head and Academic Leads through lesson observations, alongside the PSHE team completing peer observations. This policy has been produced with guidance from the Department of Education on RSE and it will be reviewed every two years by the RSE Team. Parents are encouraged to be engaged in the teaching of RSE as communicated from the Head and changes will be made to the policy as a result of this engagement.

This policy has been created with reference to:

Keeping Children Safe in Education ~~2025~~2024; Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education ~~2025~~; Equality Act 2010; SEND Code of Practice; Domestic Abuse Statutory guidance 2022~~Sexual Violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges Sept. 2021~~; SMSC requirements for independent schools; Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools.