

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL POLICY



POLICY NAME: Relationships and Sex Education Policy

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 01/09/2026

1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex 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
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

Primary Pupils at Springfield School:

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum where we feel it is appropriate to their cognitive ability.

Secondary and Sixth Form pupils at Springfield School:

As a maintained secondary school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per the Children and Social work act 2017 where we feel it is appropriate to their cognitive ability.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 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. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified
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

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

We have developed the curriculum taking into account 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.

At an appropriate level we will deliver:

Relationships Education at primary level, and RSE at secondary level, covering a wide range of topics.

In Relationships Education, children will learn about subjects including families, friendships, relationships and being safe, including characteristics of healthy family life. This covers varieties in family life, and how to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, the rules and principles for keeping safe online, and appropriate boundaries in peer friendships.

RSE builds on what is learned at primary level, for example that there are different types of committed, stable relationships, and the importance of those relationships in raising children. It also covers why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into, alongside different types of bullying (including cyber bullying), and the concepts and laws relating to sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation (FGM). RSE also introduces teaching about sexual relationships, including sexual health.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum.

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a **trained professional** at Secondary level:

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
- Sexual relationships, including sexual health

Some pupils will have their relationship curriculum taught through AET which is appropriate for their level of ability.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board 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 appropriately across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from of RSE.

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from 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 where appropriate.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 1 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher. A meeting will be arranged following the request.

9. Training

The headteacher will 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

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

This policy will be reviewed by the Leadership Team annually.

Appendix 1: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

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

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