Victoria Lane Academy

Relationships and Sex Education Policy 2026 - 2027

A Member of the Tudhoe Learning Trust

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

Statutory Requirements

As a primary academy school, 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 Victoria Lane Academy, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

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 working group of staff and Governors, including Parent Governors 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 – policy has been uploaded to our school website where parents are able to review the policy
4. Pupil consultation – will be reviewed in the summer term with the pupils through Pupil Voice
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy will be shared with governors and ratified.

Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, 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.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out in our PSHE planning, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. We have also used supporting planning resources from the PSHE Association. 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

For more information about our curriculum, see our PSHE curriculum on our school website.

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health, citizenship and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. This is delivered through specific PSHE lessons, Philosophy for Children sessions, or through other areas of the curriculum e.g. History or Reading lessons. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in Religious Education (RE).

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
- Early sexual education

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see our PSHCE Curriculum document.

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).

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing board

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

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.

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.
Laura Kilpatrick is responsible for leading RSE in our school.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

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. These are highlighted in blue on the PSHE planning document which is published on the school website.

Requests for withdrawal should be made to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. A record of these conversations will be made in school (on CPOMS).

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

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 or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Laura Kilpatrick (RSE lead) and Jaime Alton (Curriculum lead) through:

- The RSE lead will meet with staff prior to teaching to discuss teaching approaches and how PSHCE will be taught across the curriculum. Floorbooks will be monitored through termly curriculum reviews
- Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.
- This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher in conjunction with Laura Kilpatrick (RSE lead) annually.

Date of Implementation: April 2021

Last Review : July 2026

Next Review : July 2027

Signed: H. D. Whitfield Headteacher

Signed: K Short Chair of Governors