



Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy (Secondary)



Secondary RSHE Policy			
Version	Version 1.5	Approved by	SHS Governing Body
Date last amended	November 2023	Approval date	November 2024
Lead officer	Victoria Gregory	Review date	Autumn 2025
Contact	Victoria.Gregory@SouthamptonHospitalSchool.co.uk	Effective date	September 2023

INTRODUCTION AND STATUTORY GUIDANCE

This Policy is written in line with the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance September 2020. The policy has been produced in partnership with Hamwic Education Trust.

As a secondary school we are required to teach Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

Parents and relevant medical staff will be consulted on the policy in the Autumn term 2023.

The statutory guidance used to inform this policy is listed below

- As a secondary academy school we must provide relationships and sex 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 of similar breadth and depth to the National Curriculum. This includes the requirement to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. At Southampton Hospital School we follow the national curriculum for science.
- In teaching Relationships, Sex and Health Education, 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](#).

DEFINITIONS AND KEY AREAS OF TEACHING

Relationship and Sex Education

Secondary Relationship and Sex Education will focus on teaching young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships.

All teaching will reflect the Equality Act 2010 ensuring there is no discrimination for any pupil or family with protected characteristics.

Children will be taught in an age-appropriate way about the characteristics and values of healthy, unhealthy and intimate relationships, including area such as concepts of, and laws relating to, sex (including sex, sexuality, sexual health, gender identity, age of consent, what consent is and is not, the definitions and recognition of rape, sexual assault and harassment, and choices permitted by the law around pregnancy) and relationships as well as the effects of relationships on their mental wellbeing and self-respect. Teaching will focus on both face-to-face and online relationships recognising the significance of the digital world we now embrace. Teachers will also take all opportunities to discuss positive emotional and mental well-being with children. The characteristics that will be taught are also reflected in the school values of...

- Aspiration
- Resilience
- Compassion

Learning will be planned to meet the objectives set out in the Relationships Education, Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance 2020 (see appendix 1), under the broad headings of

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe

- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

Physical Health and mental wellbeing

Health and wellbeing education will build on our primary content and focus on enabling pupils to make well-informed, positive choices for themselves. It will include aspects such as the importance of physical exercise, good nutrition and what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, and the normal range of emotions we experience. Pupils will be taught about moderation, including online and the positive two-way relationship between good physical health and good mental wellbeing.

Learning will be planned at an age appropriate level to meet the objectives set out in the Relationships Education, Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance 2020 (see appendix 2), under the broad headings of

- Mental wellbeing
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy Eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid
- Changing adolescent body

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULUM DELIVERY

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) is taught through weekly lessons linked to the school's curriculum maps. Due to the nature of our setting, pupils are registered at Southampton Hospital School for varying amounts of time, from a few days to several months. Our curriculum is non-linear and therefore there is not a long term overview of when topics will be taught. Instead teachers will consider the needs of their pupils and teach topics from the RSHE Curriculum as appropriate.

The three key areas that RSHE teaching focuses on are:

- Family, friendships and Relationships (including the issue of consent)
- Keeping myself safe (covering safety online and safety in relationships, including consent)
- Mental Well being

Biological aspects of sex education can be taught within the science curriculum in line with the age expectations set out in the National curriculum.

A range of teaching resources are used in the delivery of RSHE lessons, including schemes from NSPCC and PSHE association, in addition to an anxiety resource created by SHS. Parents can request to see curriculum materials and these can be shared with them in person with a discussion or online. Under these circumstances access to documents is accompanied by a sufficient acknowledgment of the provider's authorship and includes a statement, that parents agree to as a condition of access, that the content should not be copied or shared further except as authorised under copyright law. Careful consideration is given to the well-being of pupils regarding their transition back to their homes, communities and schools. Feelings and coping strategies are explored and shared with their home schools, where appropriate, through a transition questionnaire. Close links are formed with the usual school to ensure as smooth a transition as possible, ensuring the physical and mental needs of the pupil are catered for.

The areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of pupils 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 pupils may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

We are mindful that some children with SEND may need additional support to understand the themes and learning within the relationships and health education curriculum. Teachers will draw on their knowledge of the child to ensure learning is differentiated appropriately.

We will keep abreast of local contextual issues and support these through our curriculum where possible. We will keep abreast of local contextual issues and support these through our curriculum where possible. Pupils at Southampton Hospital School come from a wide area, largely from the southern counties of England and the Channel Islands, and therefore we strive to be aware of issues both locally and further afield.

Approximately one quarter of our pupil's come from within the city of Southampton. In Southampton, we are aware of that the locality reports lower happiness than the national picture, 26% of the area are reported to live in poverty, there is a need to improve children's dental hygiene, that there is an increase in the elderly population and an increase in those with diabetes. We are pleased that the teenage pregnancy rate is falling, but are aware it is still high.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The governing body

The governing body will consult parents, suggest amendments to the headteacher and approve the RSHE policy. They will hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from any non-scientific components of sex education (in line with the science national curriculum).

The headteacher will determine whether any aspects of the curriculum will be delivered by professionals outside of the school (e.g. NHS hospital staff or nurse may deliver information about menstruation).

Curriculum Leader

- The curriculum leader is responsible for:
- planning the provision in line with statutory guidance,
- ensuring timely and quality staff training.
- Monitoring the curriculum provision and teaching of RSHE across SHS.
- Updating policy and reporting to Governors.

The leader for RSHE at Southampton Hospital School is Gayle Doulton.

Staff

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSHE in a sensitive way and in accordance to their year group expectations
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSHE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from non-statutory components of RSHE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

Pupils

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

TRAINING

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSHE and biologic aspects of the science curriculum as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar. Staff have access to the RSHE Policy and revisit this when changes occur.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as hospital nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSHE.

MONITORING OF RSHE

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by Senior Leaders and the RSHE leader through:

- Planning scrutiny
- Lesson observation
- Analysis of pupils work and discussions with pupils
- Monitoring of SEN plans and IEPs where appropriate
- Sampling of pupils' end of year reports

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

This policy will be review annually and will require approval by the governing body.

RIGHT TO BE EXCUSED FOR SEX EDUCATION

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education, other than those which are part of the science curriculum, delivered as part of statutory RSHE. SHS, before granting any such request, will require the headteacher to discuss the request with the parent and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum.

Following the discussions, except in exceptional circumstances, SHS will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the SHS will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms. The headteacher will ensure that where a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, the pupil will receive appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

APPENDIX 1 – Expectations for Relationships and Sex Education

<p>Families</p>	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that there are different types of committed, stable relationships. • how these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children. • what marriage is, including their legal status e.g. that marriage carries legal rights and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony. • why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into. • the characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships. • the roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting. • how to: determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy: judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe (and to recognise this in others’ relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed.
<p>Respectful relationships including friendships</p>	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including: trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. This includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship. 28 • practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships. • how stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g. how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice). • 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 people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people’s beliefs. • about different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help. • that some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control. • what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable. • the legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal.
<p>Online Media</p>	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online. • about online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online. • not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them. • what to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of viewing harmful content. • that specifically sexually explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners. • that sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail. • how information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online.
Being Safe	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships. • how people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online).
Intimate and Sexual relationship, including sexual health	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 and menopause. • 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 2 – EXPECTATIONS OF HEALTH EDUCATION

Mental Wellbeing	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to talk about their emotions accurately and sensitively, using appropriate vocabulary. • that happiness is linked to being connected to others. • how to recognise the early signs of mental wellbeing concerns. • common types of mental ill health (e.g. anxiety and depression). • how to critically evaluate when something they do or are involved in has a positive or negative effect on their own or others’ mental health. • the benefits and importance of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation and voluntary and service-based activities on mental wellbeing and happiness.
Internet safety and harms	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the similarities and differences between the online world and the physical world, including: the impact of unhealthy or obsessive comparison with others online (including through setting unrealistic expectations for body image), how people may curate a specific image of their life online, over-reliance on online relationships including social media, the risks related to online gambling including the accumulation of debt, how advertising and information is targeted at them and how to be a discerning consumer of information online. • how to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours.
Physical Health and Fitness	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the positive associations between physical activity and promotion of mental wellbeing, including as an approach to combat stress. • the characteristics and evidence of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, maintaining a healthy weight, including the links between an inactive lifestyle and ill health, including cancer and cardiovascular ill-health. • about the science relating to blood, organ and stem cell donation.
Healthy Eating	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to maintain healthy eating and the links between a poor diet and health risks, including tooth decay and cancer.
Drugs, alcohol and tobacco	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use, and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions. • the law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances. • the physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood. • the physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency. • awareness of the dangers of drugs which are prescribed but still present serious health risks. • the facts about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer), the benefits of quitting and how to access support to do so.

Health and prevention	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about personal hygiene, germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread, treatment and prevention of infection, and about antibiotics. • about dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including healthy eating and regular check-ups at the dentist. • (late secondary) the benefits of regular self-examination and screening. • the facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination. • the importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and how a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
Basic First Aid	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic treatment for common injuries. • life-saving skills, including how to administer CPR. • the purpose of defibrillators and when one might be needed.
Changing adolescent body	<p>Pupils should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key facts about puberty, the changing adolescent body and menstrual wellbeing. • the main changes which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health.

