

## Relationships, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

This policy is underpinned by the commitment of Discovery Schools Academy Trust to ensure the entitlement for all pupils to be taught the statutory relationships and sex curriculum and to maintain an appropriate educational environment in which all can learn and achieve.

### Document History

Version	Version Date	Author	Summary of Changes
V0.1	March 2019	Liz Braithwaite	Draft policy created
V0.1	April-July 2019	Liz Braithwaite	Consultation with Trust Board, Parents and Pupils
V1.0	September 2019	Liz Braithwaite	Changes made to policy in light of consultation comments. Final version presented to Trust Board and approved
V2.0	June 2023	Zack Minton	Review and restructure of policy. To be further updated in line with KCSIE23 and then put forward to trustees so it can be ratified.
V3.0	August 2025	Zack Minton – Trust head of Safeguarding	Review of structure and refined content to accommodate all phases within the trust and to be in line with KCSIE25 and RSHE Guidance

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## 1. Aims

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in Discovery Trust are to:

- Provide a safe and respectful framework in which open, age-appropriate, and sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for the physical and emotional changes of puberty, and give them a clear understanding of sexual development, health, and hygiene
- Support pupils to develop self-respect, confidence, resilience, and empathy in their relationships with others
- Foster a positive and inclusive culture around relationships, sexuality, and identity, ensuring that all pupils feel a sense of belonging
- Teach pupils accurate and developmentally appropriate vocabulary to describe themselves, their bodies, and their emotions
- Equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to recognise and manage healthy, safe, and respectful relationships, both online and offline
- Ensure that RSE reflects the statutory requirements of the DfE and is aligned with our safeguarding framework of Protect, React, Learn
- Equip pupils with the knowledge and confidence to recognise, challenge, and report inappropriate behaviours of a sexual nature and sexual harassment, supporting prevention of harmful sexual behaviour and child-on-child abuse.

## **Fairness, Impartiality, and Bias Prevention**

Discovery Trust are committed to delivering RSHE in a fair, impartial, and objective way. We actively work to disrupt unconscious and confirmation bias in our teaching and decision-making. Pupils are taught in a manner that supports and empowers them without fostering “victim think”, while ensuring that respect, dignity, and proportionate treatment are at the heart of our approach.

This policy also reflects the Trust’s values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity, ensuring that RSE promotes inclusivity, aspiration, and fairness for all pupils.

## **2. Statutory requirements**

Discovery Trust is a multi-academy trust comprising primary, secondary, and special schools, including post-16 provision. Our statutory responsibilities are therefore as follows:

- In our primary academies, we must provide Relationships Education to all pupils, as set out in section 34 of the *Children and Social Work Act 2017*.
- In our secondary academies and secondary-age provision within our special schools, we must provide Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) to all pupils under the same Act.
- While academies are not required to follow the National Curriculum in full, we are expected to deliver a curriculum that is broad, balanced, and comparable. This includes teaching science in line with statutory requirements, which incorporates elements of sex education at both primary and secondary level.

In teaching RSE, Discovery Trust is required by its funding agreements to have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State, as set out in section 403 of the *Education Act 1996*.

We also have regard to wider legal duties, including:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996, requiring political impartiality and balanced presentation of opposing views
- Part 6, Chapter 1 of the Equality Act 2010, prohibiting discrimination and promoting equality
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:
  - o Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other prohibited conduct
  - o Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
  - o Foster good relations between different groups

At Discovery Trust, we deliver RSE as set out in this policy, ensuring that statutory requirements are met in every setting. RSE is also embedded within our safeguarding framework of Protect, React, Learn, and reflects our Trust values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity.

## **3. Policy development**

This policy has been developed in full consultation with pupils, parents/carers, colleagues, and trustees. In Discovery Trust, each school has a designated lead with responsibility for RSE, who ensures that consultation is meaningful and consistent across our schools.

The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. **Review** – Each school's RSE lead, supported by the central education team, reviewed national statutory guidance (Children and Social Work Act 2017; DfE Statutory Guidance 2019), local authority guidance, and the Trust's safeguarding strategy.
2. **Staff consultation** – Colleagues across the Trust were given the opportunity to review and comment on the draft policy to ensure it reflects practice, safeguarding priorities, and curriculum intent.
3. **Parent and carer consultation** – Parents/carers were consulted through information meetings, workshops, or surveys at school level. Their views were considered carefully to ensure the policy reflects the needs of our communities.
4. **Pupil consultation** – Pupil voice activities were carried out in each school to understand what pupils want and need from their RSE, ensuring that the curriculum is engaging, relevant, and age-appropriate.
5. **Ratification** – Following consultation, the final draft of the policy was reviewed at local school level, before being ratified by the Discovery Trust Board of Trustees to ensure compliance, consistency, and alignment with the Trust's safeguarding framework.

This consultation process ensures that RSE across the Trust is collaborative, transparent, and responsive. It also reflects our values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity, ensuring that every pupil, parent, and colleague has a voice in shaping how RSE is taught in our schools.

#### 4. Definition

At Discovery Trust, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is understood as a core part of safeguarding and personal development. It is about the emotional, social, physical, and cultural development of pupils, and supports them to form safe, healthy, and respectful relationships throughout their lives.

RSE includes:

- Learning about relationships, families, friendships, and respect for others
- Understanding physical and emotional changes as pupils grow, including puberty
- Developing awareness of sexual health, consent, and healthy lifestyles
- Exploring issues of identity, diversity, equality, and respect for difference
- Recognising and managing risks online and offline, including unhealthy or exploitative relationships
- Recognising and understanding inappropriate behaviours of a sexual nature, including harassment, harmful sexual behaviour, and child-on-child abuse, and knowing how to seek help and support.

RSE is delivered through a combination of knowledge-sharing, discussion, exploration of values, and skills development.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity. It is about giving pupils the information, vocabulary, and strategies they need to protect themselves, respect others, and make informed choices in line with our safeguarding framework of Protect, React, Learn.

In Discovery Trust:

- In **primary academies**, we deliver statutory Relationships Education and the science curriculum requirements for health and sex education. We may choose to provide additional age-appropriate sex education where this supports safeguarding and pupil development.
- In **secondary and special schools**, we deliver statutory Relationships and Sex Education, ensuring that content is tailored to the needs of all pupils, including those with SEND or additional vulnerabilities.
- In **post-16 provision**, we continue to reinforce knowledge, skills, and awareness so pupils are prepared for adulthood and independence.

This definition reflects our Trust values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity, ensuring that every pupil feels included, supported to achieve their aspirations, and treated fairly.

## 5. Curriculum

Our RSE curriculum is set out in Appendix 1. While the curriculum provides a clear Trust-wide framework, each school may adapt delivery to reflect the age, developmental stage, needs, and context of its pupils.

The curriculum has been developed in consultation with parents/carers, pupils, and colleagues, and is underpinned by statutory guidance (DfE 2019). It is inclusive, accessible, and designed to support all pupils, including those with SEND, to fully participate and benefit.

If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy or curriculum, teachers will respond with sensitivity, accuracy, and age-appropriate information. This ensures that pupils feel informed and supported, and are less likely to seek potentially harmful or misleading information online.

Parents and carers are entitled to view curriculum resources and teaching materials on request. Schools will share these in an open and transparent manner to support parental partnership.

### Primary Curriculum

In our primary academies, we provide statutory Relationships Education and deliver the science curriculum requirements on human development. While sex education at primary level is not compulsory, Discovery Trust recognises the safeguarding benefits of preparing pupils for later learning. Therefore, we include age-appropriate sex education which focuses on:

- Preparing pupils for the changes that adolescence brings
- Understanding the basic process of conception and birth

### Secondary Curriculum

In our secondary academies and secondary-age provision within special schools, we deliver the full statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum. This includes teaching about:

- Healthy and respectful relationships (including friendships, families, and intimate relationships)
- Sexual health and consent
- The law relating to sexual behaviour and online safety
- Equality, diversity, and respect for difference

- Strategies to manage peer influence, pressure, and harmful relationships (including child-on-child abuse and exploitation)

## **Post-16 Curriculum**

In our post-16 provision, we continue to reinforce RSE themes to prepare pupils for independence and adulthood. This includes relationships, consent, sexual health, and managing risks in adult life.

For more information about our curriculum, see the curriculum map in Appendix 1.

## **Linked Policies**

This RSHE Policy should be read in conjunction with the [Discovery Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy](#) and the [Harmful Sexual Behaviour \(HSB\) Policy](#), which provide detailed operational guidance on preventing and responding to sexual harassment, inappropriate behaviours of a sexual nature, and child-on-child abuse.

## **6. Delivery of RSE**

RSE at Discovery Trust is delivered as part of a broad, balanced, and safeguarding-led curriculum, which includes PSHE, science, and, where appropriate, religious education (RE). Our approach ensures that pupils receive accurate, age-appropriate, and inclusive teaching that equips them to build healthy, safe, and respectful relationships.

### ***Primary Provision***

Across our primary academies, Relationships Education focuses on the fundamental building blocks of positive relationships, including:

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

In addition, where appropriate, our primary schools provide age-appropriate sex education beyond the science curriculum, covering:

- Preparing pupils for the changes of puberty
- How a baby is conceived and born

### ***Secondary Provision***

Across our secondary academies and secondary-age provision within our special schools, RSE builds on this foundation and equips pupils with the knowledge and skills to manage more complex relationships. Topics include:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media influences
- Being safe, including consent and the law
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

## **Post-16 Provision**

In our post-16 provision, RSE continues to prepare pupils for independence and adulthood. This includes reinforcing knowledge of healthy relationships, consent, sexual health, and managing risks in adult life.

### **Teaching the Law**

Teachers across all phases explicitly teach the law in an age-appropriate and safeguarding-led way. This includes:

- Consent and the age of consent
- Marriage, civil partnerships, forced marriage, and the illegality of marriage under 18
- Domestic abuse, coercive control, stalking, harassment, rape, and sexual offences
- Harmful sexual behaviour, sexual harassment, image-based abuse, deepfakes, and sextortion
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), virginity testing, and hymenoplasty (all illegal)
- Protected characteristics under the *Equality Act 2010*
- Online safety and the law relating to the sharing of sexual images, pornography, and online abuse
- Substance misuse, gambling, knife crime, extremism, and radicalisation

This ensures pupils understand both their rights and responsibilities under the law, are equipped to recognise, challenge, and seek help in response to illegal or harmful behaviours, including sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual behaviours.

### **Whole Trust Context**

All RSE is taught within the context of family life, recognising and celebrating the diversity of families across our Trust. We ensure that no pupil is stigmatised based on their home circumstances. Our teaching reflects the reality that families may include single-parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive or foster families, and many other structures.

We are also mindful of the law, ensuring that teaching does not condone or encourage illegal or harmful activity, including hate crime, extremism, terrorism, substance misuse, or violence.

## **6.1 Inclusivity**

Discovery Trust is committed to delivering RSE in a way that is inclusive, sensitive, and accessible for all pupils, including those with SEND or additional vulnerabilities.

Our academies will:

- Ensure that RSE content is relatable to the diverse backgrounds and experiences of all pupils
- Create safe, supportive learning environments where pupils feel able to ask questions and engage with key messages without fear of judgement

- Provide teaching in a range of formats, depending on need, such as:
  - o Whole-class lessons
  - o Small-group or targeted sessions
  - o One-to-one discussions
  - o Digital, visual, or scaffolded resources
- Carefully differentiate content to ensure accessibility and understanding for all pupils

### ***Teaching about Sex, Relationships, and Identity***

In line with statutory guidance, safeguarding expectations, and the Equality Act 2010:

- **Same-sex relationships and families** are taught alongside all other family structures, ensuring that no family type is stigmatised
- **Facts about biological sex and gender reassignment** are taught in line with the law, including protection from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010
- **Contested views about gender identity** are not presented as fact. Pupils are taught respectfully about differences of opinion while upholding dignity, equality, safeguarding, and the importance of respectful dialogue

This reflects our Trust values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity, ensuring that every pupil can engage fully and meaningfully in RSE and is equipped to respect others while also understanding their rights under the law.

### **6.2 Use of resources**

Our academies will consider whether any resources they plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress
- Fully integrated into the Trust's curriculum map (Appendices 1 and 2)

### **6.3 Health Education**

In line with statutory requirements, Discovery Trust schools deliver Health Education to all pupils in primary, secondary, and special provision. This includes:

- **Mental wellbeing** – understanding emotions, resilience, and positive coping strategies; reducing stigma; recognising when and how to seek help.
- **Physical health and fitness** – benefits of active lifestyles; risks of inactivity; sleep; balanced diet; oral health; personal hygiene.



- **Healthy eating** – knowledge of nutrition, healthy relationships with food, and the risks of poor diet.
- **Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping** – facts and risks, including nicotine addiction, illicit substances, and the impact on mental and physical health.
- **Health protection** – vaccinations, sun safety, dental care, infection prevention, first aid, and understanding of the healthcare system.
- **Online wellbeing** – safe use of technology, risks of social media, gaming, gambling-like behaviours, and emerging harms such as AI chatbots and deepfakes.
- **Developing bodies** – puberty, menstruation, reproductive health, fertility, menopause, and body changes through adolescence.

Our schools will teach this content sensitively, age-appropriately, and inclusively, ensuring pupils with SEND are fully supported to access the curriculum.

## 7. Use of external organisations and materials

Across Discovery Trust, external organisations and materials can provide valuable enrichment to our RSE curriculum. However, the Trust retains full responsibility for what is taught and shared with pupils. We will therefore ensure that all external input:

- Is appropriate, accurate, and age-appropriate
- Supports the intent and outcomes of our RSE curriculum
- Upholds the Trust's safeguarding framework of Protect, React, Learn
- Aligns with our values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity
- Complies with our legal duties around political impartiality

We will not allow any external organisation, resource, or speaker to undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

## Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

Before engaging with an external organisation, our academies will:

- Carry out appropriate checks to ensure the organisation, its approach, and its resources are suitable
- Confirm that all resources and approaches are:
  - o Age-appropriate and matched to pupils' developmental stage
  - o Compliant with:
    - This policy
    - The Teachers' Standards
    - The Equality Act 2010
    - The Human Rights Act 1998
    - The Education Act 1996
- Only engage with agencies where there is full confidence in their quality, approach, and materials

- Review any case studies or examples in advance, seeking feedback from other schools where relevant
- Be clear about:
  - o What will be delivered
  - o The position of the agency on the issues to be discussed
  - o The intended outcomes of the session

All external visitors must be named and pre-approved, and schools will follow usual safeguarding and safer recruitment procedures. Teachers must always be present during external sessions and retain the right to intervene, stop, or refuse content that is not appropriate.

### **Due Diligence**

Schools will also:

- Request to see all resources and materials in advance
- Conduct an online search to identify any concerns about the agency
- Check the agency's policies on photography, recording, and data handling
- Share external materials with parents and carers on request, in the interests of transparency

### **Prohibited Practice**

Under no circumstances will our academies:

- Work with external agencies that promote or condone extremist, illegal, or discriminatory views
- Use materials produced by organisations that promote such views, even if the materials appear neutral

## **8. Roles and responsibilities**

### **8.1 The board of trustees**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for:

- Approving the Trust-wide RSE policy
- Holding the Trust Head of Safeguarding and central team to account for ensuring consistency and compliance across all schools
- Receiving assurance that RSE is implemented effectively in every academy in line with statutory requirements and safeguarding duties

### **8.2 The Trust Head of Safeguarding**

The Trust Head of Safeguarding is responsible for:

- Reporting to the Board of Trustees on the implementation, effectiveness, and any challenges in RSE across the Trust
- Providing strategic oversight to ensure RSE is aligned with safeguarding, statutory guidance, and the Trust's values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity

- Offering guidance, training, and supervision to Named RSE Leads in schools, ensuring that practice is consistent, Ofsted-ready, and firmly linked to the Trust's safeguarding framework of Protect, React, Learn
- Monitoring implementation across schools through self-assessments, policy reviews, and curriculum audits, ensuring continuous improvement and shared learning

### 8.3 Advisory Boards

Each school's **Advisory Board** is responsible for:

- Supporting and monitoring the effective implementation of RSE at school level
- Ensuring that school leaders are engaging meaningfully with parents, carers, pupils, and colleagues regarding RSE
- Reporting concerns or issues relating to RSE implementation to the Trust Head of Safeguarding and/or the Board of Trustees

### 8.4 The headteacher

Headteachers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that RSE is taught consistently and effectively in their school, in line with this Trust policy
- Appointing a Named RSE Lead at their school who has responsibility for curriculum development, colleague training, and consultation with parents/carers
- Making sure that parents and carers can access information and resources relating to the RSE curriculum
- Managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory (non-science) components of RSE (see Section 9)

### 8.5 Colleagues

All colleagues involved in teaching are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive, accurate, and inclusive way
- Modelling positive attitudes and behaviours in line with the Trust's values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity
- Monitoring pupil progress and understanding within RSE
- Responding appropriately to the needs of individual pupils, including those with SEND or additional vulnerabilities
- Respecting the rights of parents/carers who request withdrawal from non-statutory (non-science) aspects of RSE, in line with legal requirements

Colleagues do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Any colleague who has concerns about delivering RSE is encouraged to discuss these with their headteacher or the school's RSE Lead.

### 8.6 Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Engage fully in RSE lessons and activities
- Approach discussions on RSE with respect, maturity, and sensitivity to others
- Uphold the Trust values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity in their learning and interactions

## 9. Parents' right to withdraw

Across Discovery Trust, parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from:

- **Relationships Education** in primary schools
- **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)** in secondary schools (except for the non-statutory/non-science components)
- **Health Education**, which is statutory across all phases

Parents/carers do have the right to request withdrawal from the non-statutory (non-science) elements of sex education:

- **Primary Academies** – Parents/carers may request withdrawal from any sex education content delivered in addition to the science curriculum (e.g. conception and birth).
- **Secondary Academies and Secondary-age provision within Special Schools** – Parents/carers may request withdrawal from the non-statutory aspects of sex education within RSE up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education, the school will make arrangements for them to do so.

### Process for Withdrawal

- Requests for withdrawal must be made in writing, using the form in Appendix 3, and addressed to the headteacher of the relevant school.
- A copy of each request will be placed on the pupil's educational record.
- The headteacher will meet with the parent/carer to discuss the request, ensuring that they:
  - o Understand which elements of the curriculum are statutory and cannot be withdrawn from
  - o Are fully aware of the educational and safeguarding implications of withdrawal
  - o Have the opportunity to explore alternative ways the school can support their child's learning
- The headteacher will notify the Trust Head of Safeguarding of all withdrawal requests and provide an annual summary to the Board of Trustees.

Alternative, age-appropriate work will be provided for any pupil who is withdrawn from non-statutory elements of sex education.

## 10. Training

All colleagues delivering RSE receive appropriate training to ensure that provision is accurate, inclusive, and safeguarding-led.

- **Induction** – RSE training is included in the induction programme for all new colleagues so that expectations, statutory requirements, and safeguarding procedures are clear from the outset.
- **School CPD** – Each school incorporates RSE into its own continuing professional development (CPD) calendar. This ensures that colleagues have regular opportunities to build confidence, refresh knowledge, and share effective practice in delivering sensitive content.
- **School-level leadership** – Each school has a Named RSE Lead, supported by the headteacher, who is responsible for ensuring colleagues receive timely training and guidance.
- **Specialist input** – Where appropriate, headteachers (or the RSE Lead) may invite external professionals, such as school nurses, health advisors, or sexual health practitioners, to contribute to training. All external support is subject to the Trust's safeguarding and quality assurance procedures.

### ***Core Training Content***

All colleagues delivering RSE will be trained in:

- **Safeguarding procedures** for handling disclosures during RSE lessons
- **Mandatory reporting duties**, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the forthcoming duty to report known child sexual abuse
- **Managing sensitive discussions**, including the use of distancing techniques, safe classroom practice, and avoiding harmful stereotypes
- **Adapting delivery** to meet the needs of pupils with SEND or vulnerabilities
- **Signposting** pupils to appropriate internal and external support, including Designated Safeguarding Leads, health services, the police, and Childline

The **Trust Head of Safeguarding** provides oversight, guidance, and monitoring of RSE training across all schools, ensuring consistency, safeguarding alignment, and statutory compliance.

This approach reflects the Trust's values of Belonging, Ambition, and Equity, ensuring that every colleague feels confident in delivery and every pupil receives high-quality, safe, and inclusive RSE.

## **11. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored within each school by the headteacher (or the Named RSE Lead, where delegated). Monitoring may include:

- Curriculum planning scrutiny
- Learning walks and lesson observations
- Pupil voice activities
- Work sampling
- Feedback from colleagues, parents/carers, and Advisory Boards

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers and RSE Leads as part of the school's internal assessment and personal development systems.

Each school will:

- Publish this RSE policy on its website, in line with statutory guidance
- Share representative samples of RSE and Health Education materials proactively with parents and carers
- Provide all materials to parents on request, ensuring that no contractual restrictions prevent transparency
- During the first parent's evening of the year the PHSE materials will be available for parents to view. The head teacher will be available to answer questions about the curriculum and parental rights
- Before the sex education part of the year 6 curriculum is taught the videos will be available for parents to view
- Merrydale will encourage parents to engage fully with the education of the children in this area.
- Merrydale will accept parents decision if they wish to withdraw from the non-science section of the RSE curriculum and provide alternate activities while the other pupils are taught.

This Trust policy will be reviewed annually by the Trust Head of Safeguarding and approved by the Board of Trustees.

## Appendix 1: Curriculum map

### Relationships and sex education curriculum map

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
Year 3	Autumn	<b>Keeping Safe:</b> How can I share my worries? What are emergency services? What are emergency situations? What do we mean by risk? When should I break a secret?	
	Spring	Understanding the Law: How can I be a responsible citizen? How do we enforce the law? What are children's rights? What is the law and why do we have it?	
	Summer	Relationships How should we treat people? How can we tell when friendships go wrong? What do we mean by consent in friendships? What is bullying? What is mental health? Who are my key people? Well-being:	

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
		What am I good at? How can intense feeling feel? What words can I use to talk about my feelings? How does school help me?	
Year 4	Autumn	Keeping Safe: How can I keep safe in my local area? How can we keep safe on the road? What are hazards in the home? What is first aid? Who do I encounter?	
	Spring	Understanding the Law How can I respect my environment? What are protected characteristics? What can I be? What is hate crime?	
	Summer	Relationships How can we be role models? What is a healthy friendship? What is discrimination? What is diversity? What is peer influence? Who makes up my community?  Wellbeing: How do my choices help me to be healthy?	



YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
		What are healthy habits? Why is food fuel? How can I be a hygiene hero? How does school build my character?	
Year 5	Autumn	Keeping Safe: How can we keep our things safe? How can we use our phones sensibly? What are deep fakes? What are the risks with money? What do I know about drugs? Why are our special people important?	
	Spring	Understanding the Law: How do rules help our community? What can and can't I do on the internet? What is gambling?	
	Summer	Relationships: How can my adult relationships affect my future? How do words have power? What are my personal boundaries? What are online friendships? What is grooming? What is media influence? What is peer pressure?	

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
		Well-being: What is my personal identity? How might puberty impact the way I feel? How might being online impact the way I feel? How might my activity levels impact the way I feel? How might school impact the way I feel? How can drugs and alcohol make people feel?	
Year 6	Autumn	Keeping Safe How is my data shared? What is spiking? What is the issue with addiction? (Vaping/smoking) Why does media have age restrictions? Bonfire Night Lesson Halloween Lesson	
	Spring	Understanding the Law What different types of crime are there? What does the law say about legal drugs? What does the law say about marriage? What is a weapon? What is antisocial behaviour? What is shop theft?	
	Summer	Relationships How can I get ready for secondary relationships? How can we be allies against racism?	

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
		<p>How can we challenge sexism?</p> <p>How can we respect different relationships?</p> <p>What is a debate?</p> <p>What is my relationship with authority?</p> <p>Well-being:</p> <p>What does 30 look like?</p> <p>How can I re-frame my thinking?</p> <p>How can I seek support for my mental health?</p> <p>How can I cope with leaving school?</p>	

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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</li> <li>• How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed</li> </ul>
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</li> <li>• The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• The conventions of courtesy and manners</li> <li>• The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</li> <li>• The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</li> </ul>
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them</li> <li>• How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met</li> <li>• How information and data is shared and used online</li> </ul>
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact</li> <li>• How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know</li> <li>• How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult</li> <li>• How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard</li> <li>• How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so</li> <li>• Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources</li> </ul>

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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That there are different types of committed, stable relationships</li> <li>• How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into</li> <li>• The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships</li> <li>• The roles and responsibilities of parents/carers with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g. how</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	<p>they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help</li> <li>• That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control</li> <li>• What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them</li> <li>• What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online</li> <li>• The impact of viewing harmful content</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail</li> <li>• How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online</li> </ul>
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
Intimate and sexual relationships,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• That all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, e.g. physical, emotional,</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
including sexual health	<p data-bbox="454 236 1034 260">mental, sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing</p> <ul data-bbox="432 276 2004 767" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="432 276 1771 300">• The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women</li> <li data-bbox="432 316 2004 371">• That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others</li> <li data-bbox="432 387 1196 411">• That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex</li> <li data-bbox="432 427 1368 451">• The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available</li> <li data-bbox="432 467 987 491">• The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage</li> <li data-bbox="432 507 1989 563">• 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)</li> <li data-bbox="432 579 1910 643">• 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</li> <li data-bbox="432 659 1760 683">• About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment</li> <li data-bbox="432 699 1182 722">• How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour</li> <li data-bbox="432 738 1832 762">• How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment</li> </ul>

Appendix 3: Parent/carer form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS			
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	Include notes from discussions with parents and agreed actions taken.