



RELATIONSHIPS and SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Reviewed: Spring 2024

Review Frequency: Every 2 Years

Approved by: Board of Trustees

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to make explicit the commitment of Aspire Academies Trust in relation to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). It is also to provide a framework for schools to base their curriculum planning around.

It is written, taking into account the DfE Statutory Guidance RSE and Health Education, 2019.

1. Related Documents

- Equality and Diversity policy
- Child protection policy
- Behaviour policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Exclusions Policy
- SEN Policy

2. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social, cultural and physical development of pupils, and involves learning about loving and caring 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.

3. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our schools are to:

- To help young people learn to respect themselves and others, moving from childhood, through adolescence into adulthood
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- 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
- Teach RSE within the context of the school's ethos and values.
- Develop a culture of acceptance and ensure learners are prepared for life in modern Britain

2. Statutory requirements

As primary academy schools 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](#).

The [DfE Statutory Guidance RSE and Health Education](#), 2019 sets out the requirements for delivering an effective RSE curriculum.

Children's learning through RSE would significantly contribute to their personal development as set out in the Ofsted Inspection Framework and promotes the four fundamental British values which reflect life in modern Britain: democracy; rule of law; respect; acceptance and individual liberty.

Quality PSHE and RSE teaching is an important element in helping schools to carry out their duty of care with regards to safeguarding. The DfE's statutory 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sep 2023)' guidance states that 'Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that children are taught about safeguarding, including online safety. Schools should consider this as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum'. In response to the child-on-child abuse updates to Section 5 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2023), each school's curriculum explores ideas of personal boundaries, consent and communicating our boundaries with others. This prepares pupils for the challenges and responsibilities they will face in the future.

At Aspire Academies Trust, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

Equality

Our schools are required to comply with relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Further guidance is available for schools in The Equality Act 2010 and schools' advice. We pay particular attention to the Public sector equality duty of the Equality Act.

In teaching statutory Relationships Education, all academies will ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. At the point at which each academy considers it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT+, they should ensure that this content is fully integrated into their programmes of study for this area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a stand-alone unit or lesson.

To support our pupils develop an age-appropriate understanding of the protected characteristics (outlined in the Equality Act 2010), we have adopted the No Outsiders approach across the Aspire Academies Trust. The No Outsiders approach provides our schools with high quality resources to teach children about the Equality Act.

The aims of the No Outsiders approach are to:

- Build confident educations
- Engage with parents and carers
- Empower children
- Develop community cohesion

The No Outsiders curriculum links to British Values and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural learning (SMSC). As this is part of the relationships curriculum, every child takes part. No Outsiders challenges stereotypes and the use of derogatory language in lessons and around school. No Outsiders strategies reflect and value the diversity of pupils' experiences and provide pupils with a comprehensive understanding of people and communities within and beyond their immediate experience.

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. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were given the opportunity to look at the policy and to give feedback, if appropriate.
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with Trustees and ratified

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

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 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. 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 curriculum map in Appendix 1.

SEND

Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education must be accessible for all pupils. This is particularly important when planning teaching for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities who represent a large minority of pupils. High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will be the starting point to ensure accessibility.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional or teacher.

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

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see **Appendices 1 and 2**.

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).

RSE is taught in different ways, according to the content being delivered; whilst teaching content will be in mixed gendered groups, if the content is sensitive, smaller groups and opportunities for questions and answers will be used as deemed appropriate. Ground rules are agreed and set to ensure the appropriateness of questions asked and responses given. In some cases, staff might not respond to certain questions of a particularly sensitive nature, where these would be best discussed on an individual basis, or at home.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The Local Advisory Board (LAB)

The LAB will hold the Principal to account for the implementation of this policy.

The Board of Trustees has delegated responsibility to oversee the implementation of this policy to the CEO and Executive Principal and will approve and ratify this policy.

7.2 The Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 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 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 Principal.

7.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity. Every child is entitled to have access to RSE. It is our intention that all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of RSE at a level appropriate to their age and development.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

We would like all children to attend RSE sessions in full, because we believe it is a vital part of the curriculum.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education, but they do have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components (within the science curriculum) of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in **Appendix 3** of this policy and addressed to the Principal.

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

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

Where appropriate, the Principal might also 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

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Principal and SLT through the range of monitoring activity outlined on the Academy's monitoring schedule.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems. Academies will assess the pupils' learning and make appropriate changes to its implementation in light of this. This policy will be reviewed biannually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

11. Child Protection / Confidentiality

Effective relationships and sex education could result in a pupil disclosing a child protection issue. Where a disclosure is made, the staff member will inform the Principal / DSP immediately, in line with the school's safeguarding and Child Protection procedures. If requested, staff cannot promise confidentiality to a pupil.

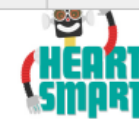
This policy will be reviewed during the spring term 2026.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Relationships and sex education curriculum map

RELATIONSHIPS & HEALTH EDUCATION

		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION							
Families and people who care for me <i>Pupils should know...</i>							
F1	that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
F2	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.	✓			✓	✓	
F3	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.		✓		✓		✓
F4	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.	✓			✓	✓	
F5	that marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong.						✓
F6	how to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.			✓		✓	
Caring Friendships <i>Pupils should know...</i>							
CF1	how important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CF2	the characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
CF3	that healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CF4	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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CF5	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.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Respectful Relationships <i>Pupils should know...</i>						
RR1	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.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
RR2	practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RR3	the conventions of courtesy and manners.		✓	✓	✓		
RR4	the importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RR5	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.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RR6	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.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
RR7	what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.			✓			
RR8	the importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.				✓		



		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
	Online Relationships <i>Pupils should know...</i>						
OR1	that people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.			✓		✓	✓
OR2	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.	✓	✓				
OR3	the rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them.	✓	✓	✓			
OR4	how to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met.					✓	
OR5	how information and data is shared and used online.		✓	✓			
	Being Safe <i>Pupils should know...</i>						
BS1	what sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context).				✓	✓	✓
BS2	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.						✓
BS3	that each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.	✓		✓			
BS4	how to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.	✓				✓	
BS5	how to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓



		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
BS6	how to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard.	✓				✓	
BS7	how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.	✓	✓			✓	
BS8	where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.	✓	✓		✓	✓	

		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
	HEALTH EDUCATION						
	Mental Wellbeing <i>Pupils should know...</i>						
MW1	that mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MW2	that there is a normal range of emotions (e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, nervousness) and scale of emotions that all humans experience in relation to different experiences and situations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MW3	how to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others' feelings.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MW4	how to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MW5	the benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness.				✓		
MW6	simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family and the benefits of hobbies and interests.	✓	✓				✓
MW7	isolation and loneliness can affect children and that it is very important for children to discuss their feelings with an adult and seek support.		✓	✓		✓	



		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
MW8	that bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
MW9	where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), including whom in school they should speak to if they are worried about their own or someone else's mental wellbeing or ability to control their emotions (including issues arising online).	✓	✓		✓		
MW10	it is common for people to experience mental ill health. For many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.				✓		
	Internet Safety and Harms <i>Pupils should know...</i>						
ISH1	that for most people the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.	✓			✓		
ISH2	about the benefits of rationing time spent online, the risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices and the impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing.				✓	✓	✓
ISH3	how to consider the effect of their online actions on others and know how to recognise and display respectful behaviour online and the importance of keeping personal information private.					✓	✓
ISH4	why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age restricted.					✓	✓
ISH5	that the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.				✓		
ISH6	how to be a discerning consumer of information online including understanding that information, including that from search engines, is ranked, selected and targeted.			✓		✓	✓
ISH7	where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.		✓		✓		



		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
	Physical Health and Fitness <i>Pupils should know...</i>						
PH1	the characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.	✓	✓	✓			
PH2	the importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this; for example walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile or other forms of regular, vigorous exercise.		✓				
PH3	the risks associated with an inactive lifestyle (including obesity).		✓	✓			
PH4	how and when to seek support including which adults to speak to in school if they are worried about their health.			✓			
	Healthy Eating <i>Pupils should know...</i>						
HE1	what constitutes a healthy diet (including understanding calories and other nutritional content).			✓			
HE2	the principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.		✓	✓			✓
HE3	the characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating (including, for example, obesity and tooth decay) and other behaviours (e.g. the impact of alcohol on diet or health).		✓				
	Drugs, alcohol and tobacco <i>Pupils should know...</i>						



		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
DAT1	the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.				✓	✓	✓
	Health and prevention Pupils should know...						
HP1	how to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss, or unexplained changes to the body.						✓
HP2	about safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.		✓				
HP3	the importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.					✓	
HP4	about dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.	✓					
HP5	about personal hygiene and germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of handwashing.	✓			✓		
HP6	the facts and science relating to allergies, immunisation and vaccination.			✓			✓
	Basic First Aid Pupils should know...						
BFA1	how to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.			✓			
BFA2	concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.			✓			
	Changing adolescent body Pupils should know...						



		Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
CAB1	key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.				✓	✓	✓
CAB2	about menstrual wellbeing including the key facts about the menstrual cycle.					✓	



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"> • That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability • 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 • 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 • 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 • That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong • How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends • The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded • 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 • 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

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

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

Appendix 3: 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	