



Braeside School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy (Seniors)

Introduction

All schools must provide a curriculum that is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all pupils. Under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010, a PSHE curriculum:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Within the Independent Schools Standards Regulations, a PSHE curriculum:

- Reflects the school's aim and ethos; and
- Encourages respect for other people, paying particular attention to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

In line with those regulations, the school has a separate written statement of the Relationships and Sex Education Policy. We always consult with parents about the policy, and provide a copy of the policy on the website. A printed copy is also provided free of charge to anyone who asks.

An amendment to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 made Relationships Education at primary; and Relationships, Sex, and Health Education at secondary, statutory subjects.

Statutory RSE and Health Education

"The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships and Sex Education compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education...Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) continues to be compulsory in independent schools."

DfE Guidance p.8.

"Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way."

"This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools."

"In primary schools, we want the subjects to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy. At secondary, teaching will build on the knowledge acquired at primary and develop further pupils' understanding of health, with an increased focus on risk areas such as drugs and alcohol, as well as introducing knowledge about intimate relationships and sex."

“These subjects represent a huge opportunity to help our children and young people develop. The knowledge and attributes gained will support their own, and others’ wellbeing and attainment and help young people to become successful and happy adults who make a meaningful contribution to society.”

Secretary of State Foreword, DfE Guidance 2019 p.4-5.

“Schools are free to determine how to deliver the content set out in the DfE guidance 2019 in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum. Effective teaching in these subjects will ensure that core knowledge is broken down into units of manageable size and communicated clearly to pupils, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned programme of lessons.”

DfE Guidance p.8

“All schools must have in place a written policy for Relationships and Sex Education.”

DfE Guidance p.11.

We value PSHE as a way to support students’ development, to enable them to understand and respect who they are, to empower them with a voice and to equip them for life and learning. This is in line with our school aims. We include the statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education within our whole-school PSHE Programme.

To ensure progression and a spiral curriculum, we use Jigsaw, as our chosen teaching and learning programme and tailor it to our students’ needs. The table at the end of this policy called ‘**Overview of Scheme of Work and RSE by Year**’, shows exactly how we meet the statutory RSE requirements.

Our PSHE policy is informed by existing DfE guidance:

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (statutory guidance)
- [Respectful School Communities: Self Review and Signposting Tool](#) (a tool to support a whole school approach that promotes respect and discipline)
- [Behaviour and Discipline in Schools](#) (advice for schools, including advice for appropriate behaviour between pupils)
- [Equality Act 2010 and schools](#)
- [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#) (statutory guidance)
- [Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools](#) (advice for schools)
- [Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#) (advice for schools, including advice on [cyberbullying](#))
- [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools](#) (advice for schools)
- [The Equality and Human Rights Commission Advice and Guidance](#) (provides advice on avoiding discrimination in a variety of educational contexts)
- [Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools](#) (guidance for maintained schools on promoting basic important British values as part of pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC))
- [SMSC requirements for independent schools](#) (guidance for independent schools on how they should support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development).

What we teach, when and who teaches it

The school is committed to the teaching of Sex Education:

- We do our best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care
- We aim to provide correct information and dispel any myths
- We help our pupils to respect themselves, their bodies and those of others and move with confidence through childhood to adolescence
- We aim to help our pupils through their physical, emotional, moral and social development
- We aim to teach pupils about how to keep themselves safe and to be aware of different forms of sexual abuse, including safety from cyber abuse

Context

We teach about sex in the context of the school's aims. Whilst sex education in our school means that we give our pupils information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and the values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach about sex in the belief that:

- Sex should be taught about in the context of healthy, loving relationships
- Sex education is part of a wide process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education
- Pupils should be taught to have respect for their own bodies
- Pupils should learn about their responsibilities to others and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity
- It is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect.

Objectives

Sex Education will:

- Be developmental and be appropriate to the age and stage of the pupil
- Be aware that common starting levels cannot be assumed;
- Put forward factual knowledge and encourage the exploration of facts
- Examine opinions and concepts and encourage discussion
- Encourage awareness, respect and responsibility for oneself and others.

Whole-school approach

The Jigsaw Programme covers all areas of PSHE for the secondary phase including statutory RSE and Health Education. The table below gives the learning theme of each of the six units and these are taught across the school; the learning deepens and broadens every year.

Term	Unit	Content
Autumn 1:	Being Me in My World	Includes understanding my own identity and how I fit well in the class, school and global community. Jigsaw Charter established.
Autumn 2:	Celebrating Difference	Includes anti-bullying (cyber and homophobic bullying included) and understanding difference, Equality Act
Spring 1:	Dreams and Goals	Includes goal-setting, aspirations, who do I want to become and what would I like to do for work and to contribute to society
Spring 2:	Healthy Me	Includes drugs and alcohol education, self-esteem and confidence as well as healthy lifestyle choices, sleep, nutrition, rest and exercise
Summer 1:	Relationships	Includes understanding friendship, family, intimate relationships and other relationships, conflict resolution and communication skills, bereavement and loss
Summer 2:	Changing Me	Includes Relationships and Sex Education in the context of coping positively with change

We allocate one lesson to PSHE each week in order to teach the PSHE knowledge and skills in a developmental and age-appropriate way. These explicit lessons are reinforced and enhanced in many ways:

- assemblies and collective worship,
- praise and reward system,
- through relationships student to student, adult to student and adult to adult across the school.
- We aim to 'live' what is learnt and apply it to everyday situations in the school community.
- Class tutors and the PSHE subject coordinators plan and deliver the weekly lessons.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

The DfE Guidance 2019 integrates Relationships and Sex Education at secondary school level. Most of the DfE outcomes relating to Sex Education sit within the 'Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health' section of the guidance and include aspects like:

- the facts about reproductive health
- the facts about the full range of contraceptive choices
- how the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS, are transmitted
- how to get further advice
- consent and the law

DfE Guidance page 29.

The PSHE Programme reflects this, making it possible for us to identify which lessons specifically address these aspects of learning, thereby making it straightforward for us to communicate this to parents/carers in relation to their right to request to withdraw their children from Sex Education.

The grid below shows which lessons cover which aspects of the DfE outcomes. Within Sex Education we aim to enable pupils to understand the facts listed above, but also to develop a healthy self-respect, to understand their emotions, to recognise their rights and to understand their responsibilities towards themselves and others.

"The aim of RSE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like...it should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships...

Effective RSE also supports people, throughout life, to develop safe, fulfilling and healthy sexual relationships, at the appropriate time.

RSE should provide clear progression from what is taught in primary school in Relationships Education.

Pupils should understand the benefits of healthy relationships to their mental wellbeing and self-respect."

DfE Guidance page 25

"In teaching Relationships Education and RSE, schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of The Equality Act 2010 under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics...

We expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum."

DfE Guidance page 15

The Sex Education Forum offers the following definitions:

"Sex education is learning about the physical, social, legal and emotional aspects of human sexuality and behaviour, including human reproduction. This includes conception and contraception, safer sex, sexually transmitted infections and sexual health."

"Relationships education is learning about the physical, social, legal and emotional aspects of human relationships including friendships, intimate, sexual and committed relationships and family life. Relationships education supports children to be safe, happy and healthy in their interactions with others now and in the future."

Sex Education Forum, 2020

DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education

RSE in secondary schools will cover 'Families', 'Respectful relationships including friendships', 'Online and media', 'Being safe' and 'Intimate sexual relationships, including sexual health'. The expected outcomes for each of these elements can be found further on in this policy. The way the PSHE Programme covers these is explained in the tables at the end of this policy.

It is important to explain that whilst the Relationships unit covers most of the statutory Relationships Education, the Changing Me unit covers much of the Sex Education and the Healthy Me unit covers much of the Health Education, some of the outcomes are also taught elsewhere in the scheme of work. This holistic approach ensures the learning is reinforced through the year and across the curriculum.

Health Education as part of PSHE

"It is important that the starting point for health and wellbeing education should be a focus on enabling pupils to make well-informed, positive choices for themselves."

DfE Guidance page 35.

Health Education in secondary schools covers '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'. The expected outcomes for each of these elements can be found further on in this policy. The way the programme covers these is explained in the tables at the end of the policy.

It is important to explain that whilst the Healthy Me unit covers most of the statutory Health Education, some of the outcomes are taught elsewhere, e.g. emotional and mental health is nurtured every lesson through mindfulness practice, and respect is enhanced through delivery of lessons. Again, the tables show transparently how the whole-school approach spirals the learning and meets all statutory requirements and more.

Parents' right to request their child be withdrawn from Sex Education

"Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE... except in exceptional circumstances, the school should respect the parents' request to withdraw the 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 school should make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those Terms".

DfE Guidance pages 17/18.

Should parents wish to discuss withdrawing their child from Sex Education, they should contact the Headmistress to make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of the parents in this regard.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We know it is important to make pupils aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable and how they can keep themselves safe. The non-statutory framework for Personal, Social and Health Education provides opportunities for pupils to learn about keeping safe and who to ask for help if their safety is threatened. As part of developing a healthy, safer lifestyle, pupils will be taught, for example, to:

- Recognise feelings in different situations, what might cause them, and manage them
- Know their personal likes and dislikes
- Voice different opinions sensitively
- Meet and develop relationships with a variety of people
- Face challenges in a supporting environment
- Develop trust and reliability.

Through class discussions we encourage our pupils:

- to recognise and manage risks in different situations and then decide how to behave responsibly
- to judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable and unacceptable
- to recognise when pressure from others (including people they know) threatens their personal safety and well-being and develop effective ways of resisting pressure, including knowing when and where to get help
- to use assertiveness techniques to resist unhelpful pressure.

Monitoring and Review

The Principals monitor this policy on an annual basis with the Senior Leadership Team, giving serious consideration to any comments from parents about the PSHE (RSHE) programme. The Principals scrutinise and review teaching materials to check they are in accordance with the school's ethos.

Inclusion and SEND

We take care to ensure the teaching of PSHE is inclusive and we make provision for all students' needs. PSHE is differentiated and personalised by the PSHE Coordinators and form tutors in discussion with the SENDCo and Learning Support Team as necessary.

Equality

This policy informs the school's Equal Opportunities Policy.

The DfE Guidance 2019 (p.15) states, "Schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010 under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics.

At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender), they should ensure 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. Schools are free to determine how they do this, and we expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum".

We promote respect for all and value every individual student.

We also respect the right of our students, their families and our staff, to hold beliefs, religious or otherwise, and understand that sometimes these may be in tension with our approach to some aspects of RSE and Health Education.

Overview of the Scheme of Work for PSHE

The overview of the PSHE Scheme of Work is available to see in the PSHE Policy.

Overview of Relationships & Sex Education by Year

By the end of secondary school pupils should know the topics in the table below. These are taught in an age-appropriate way through the Jigsaw scheme of work:

Topic	Year in which the topic is covered
Family There are different types of committed stable relationships	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 11
How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance in bringing up children	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
What marriage is, including legal status e.g. that marriage carries legal right and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony	Year 7, Year 8, Year 10, Year 11
Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into	Year 8, Year 10, Year 11
The characteristics and legal status of other types of relationships	Year 7, Year 8, Year 10, Year 11
The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting	Year 7, Year 11
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 recognise this in others' relationships); how to seek help of advice, including reporting concerns about others if needed.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Respectful relationships, including friendships 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 relationships.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Practical steps to take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
How stereotypes, in particular based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage e.g. encourage prejudice	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
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, including to people in positions of authority and tolerating other people's beliefs.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control.	Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable.	Year 10, Year 11
The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equalities Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Online and Media Their rights and responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Online risks including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11

difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online.	
Not to provide material to other that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them	Year 7, Year 8, Year 10, Year 11
What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
The impact of viewing harmful content.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
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.	Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail.	Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 10, Year 11
Being Safe The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic violence, forced marriage, honour-based violence, and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
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).	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Intimate Sexual Relationships including Sexual Health 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.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
All aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively e.g.: physical, emotional, mental, sexual health and wellbeing	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
The facts about reproductive health, including fertility, and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women and menopause.	Year 7, Year 9, Year 11
That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available.	Year 9, Year 11
The facts around pregnancy, including miscarriage.	Year 7
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)	Year 7, Year 9, Year 11
How the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing.	Year 9, Year 10, Year 11

About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment.	Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
How the use of drugs and alcohol can lead to risky sexual behaviour.	Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment.	Year 7, Year 9, Year 11
Mental Health and Wellbeing How to talk about their emotions accurately and sensitively, using appropriate vocabulary.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
That happiness is linked to being connected to others.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
How to recognise the early signs of mental wellbeing concerns.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Common types of mental ill health (e.g. anxiety and depression)	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
How to critically evaluate when something they do or are involved in has a positive or negative affect on their own or others' mental health.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
The benefits and importance of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, and voluntary or service-based activities on mental wellbeing and happiness.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10
Internet Safety and Harms The similarities and differences between the online world and the physical world, including: the impact of unhealthy or obsessive comparison with others online (including 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 relating 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.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report and find support.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Physical Health and Fitness The positive associations between physical activity and promotion of mental wellbeing, including as an approach to combat stress.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
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 cardio-vascular ill health.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10
About the science relating to blood, organ and stem cell donation.	Year 10
Healthy Eating How to maintain healthy eating and the links between a poor diet and health risks including tooth decay and cancer.	Year 8, Year 10
Drugs Alcohol and Tobacco The facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use and the associated risks including serious mental health conditions.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 11

The law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
The physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10
The physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9
Awareness of the dangers of drugs which are prescribed but still present serious health risks.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10
The facts about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly linked to lung cancer), the benefits of quitting and how to access support to do so.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10
Health and Prevention Personal hygiene, germs including bacteria, viruses and how they are spread, treatment and prevention of infection and about antibiotics.	Year 7, Year 8
About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene including regular visits to the dentist	Year 8, Year 10
Late seniors: the benefits of self-examination and screening.	Year 10, Year 11
The facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination.	Year 7, Year 8
The importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and how a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood, and ability to learn.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11
Basic First Aid Basic treatment for common injuries.	
Life-saving skills and how to administer CPR	Year 7, Year 8, Year 11
The purpose of defibrillation and when one might be needed.	Year 9, Year 11
Changing Adolescent Body Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body; menstrual wellbeing.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10
The main changes that take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health.	Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually.