

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Policy incorporating Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Aim

Engaging Potential (EP) invites its young people to engage in a broad, balanced and varied curriculum at the individual young person's level of understanding to include Personal, Social and Health (PSHE) which includes Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

The delivery of PSHE and RSE will comprise of tutoring, mentoring and participation in a wide range of activities which promotes EP's ethos of building positive relationships based on value, integrity and mutual respect. Enabling our young people to grow spiritually and morally, develop socially and culturally, and allow them to grow strong mentally and physically.

We aim to provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place and prepare young people to have an understanding of sexual development including puberty and the importance of health and hygiene. We also aim to help our young people to develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy, to create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships, and teach them to use the correct vocabulary to describe themselves, others and their bodies. (Curriculum policy v10 Nov 2019)

Statutory Requirements

PSHE is a non-statutory subject, however we must provide RSE to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act of 2017. In teaching the RSE element we must have regard to the guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

Definition, Curriculum and Delivery

PSHE is about young people being given the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe and prepared for life and work in the future and will include emotional and physical wellbeing, health education (drugs, tobacco and alcohol), transition and careers guidance.

- RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationship – families, respectful relationships, friendships and safety (online and media), and sex education will include intimate and sexual relationships and sexual health allowing for 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.
- RSE will be taught within our PSHE curriculum, and will focus on giving our young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds.

These areas of learning will be 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).

We have developed the curriculum taking into account the age, feelings and individual needs of our young people. If our young people ask questions outside the scope of the policy, staff will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed or sign posted in a suitable direction. PSHE incorporating RSE will be a compulsory element of EP's timetable, however parents and young people are advised to follow the guidance below regarding the rights to withdraw from the sex education element should you so wish.

Accreditation

Each young person has an individual timetable, based on their abilities, accreditation will vary according to their particular needs and aspirations. On the whole the PSHE element will follow the ASDAN short course award scheme, these short courses are flexible, portfolio-based programmes designed to accredit up to 60 hours of activity and skills development.

Parents rights to withdraw

Parents have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before your child turns 16.

At this point, if the young person themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, Engaging Potential will make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) are important for all young people to be taught.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 1 of this policy. A copy of the withdrawal request will be held on your child's school record.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually as part of EPs quality assurance cycle.



Parent / Carer 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 / Carer Signature:			
Date:			

To be completed by the school	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	
Centre Manager Signature:	
Date:	