



**NEWENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE**

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Committee Assigned: STANDARDS & STUDENT WELFARE

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Relationship & Sex Education Policy

This policy covers our school's approach to Relationships and Sex education. It was produced by the Department Lead for Personal Social Health & Economic Education through consultation with students, teachers, parents & SLT.

RSE is part of lifelong learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. RSE, within PSHE, aims to give children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitive relationships and the skills to stay safe both on and offline. It enables students to explore their own and other's attitudes and values.

It has three main elements:

- Attitudes and values –

- I. learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- II. learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- III. learning the value of respect, love and care;
- IV. exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- V. developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

- Personal and social skills

- I. learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- II. developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- III. learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- IV. developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- V. managing conflict; and – learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

- Knowledge and understanding

- I. learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- II. understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- III. learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services;
- IV. learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay
- V. the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

We believe that Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) is important for our students as between the ages of 11-19 they will grow and develop as individuals, forming lasting relationships and will start to explore individual feelings around their sexuality and identity.

We know through research that this age group are more likely to make mistakes and/or rash decisions, experiment and they should be able to do this with an understanding of the consequences to these actions as well as ways of preventing mistakes or harming themselves. We view the partnership between home and school to be vital in providing the context for these relationships.

Our school's overarching aim for our students is to provide an environment of curiosity where they can develop as young people with the knowledge to support their decision making. We ensure RSE is inclusive and meets the needs of all our students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by differentiating the curriculum as appropriate and taking an individual and class approach to the teaching of RSE. We ensure RSE fosters gender equality and LGBT+ equality by talking about relationships and by teaching these topics. The intended outcomes of our programme are that students will have an understanding of healthy and unhealthy relationships, that they understand the concept of consent and know where to go should they need support with any matters relating to this. We want our students to be able to be fully informed on these topics and be able to debate and form their own opinions, whilst respecting the rights of others around them.

The RSE programme will be led by the Head of PSHE and taught by a team of teachers, all of who have an interest in the subject. It will be supported by the pastoral team and SLT. Teaching staff will receive RSE training on delivering all aspects of the RSE curriculum in order to support our students.

We are required to teach relationships education/RSE as part of the Revised Department for Education statutory Guidance (2020). There is a parental right to withdraw students from RSE teaching. However, in the third term before the student becomes 16, the student has the right to decide for themselves if they would like to receive this teaching. The school will then make this available.

Documents that inform the school's RSE policy include:

- Education Act (1996)
- Learning and Skills Act (2000)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010),
- Supplementary Guidance SRE for the 21st century (2014) Keeping children safe in education – Statutory safeguarding guidance (2016)
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education provision and curriculum content will include topics related to Families; Respectful relationships, including friendships; Online and media; Being safe; and, Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health. Specific topics will include, but not be limited to,

- Healthy and unhealthy relationships, including teen domestic abuse
- Sexual development
- Menstruation
- Consent (Verbal & non verbal signs)
- Contraception and signposting to advice, including emergency contraception
- Sexually transmitted infections and signposting to advice
- Unplanned & teenage pregnancy, termination & miscarriage
- Sexuality and identity
- Pornography & attitudes towards it
- Menopause

All relevant content for RSE education will be covered during the course of study.

We will ensure RSE is matched to the needs of our students by constructing a spiralling curriculum teaching each topic aimed at the year group of the students.

For example, in year 7 the healthy relationships topic looks at people with whom you can trust and go to for advice. In year 10 the same topic looks at recent cases of domestic abuse.

High quality resources will support our RSE provision and will be regularly reviewed. Selected resources, such as books and film clips, will be used which support and promote understanding within a moral/values context and underpin the core values of the school. Learning about relationships and sex education in PSHE education lessons will link to/complement learning in subjects such as Biology, Child Development and English. As in every subject, students will be encouraged to reflect on their own learning and progress. There will be no formal assessment, rather, teachers will help students reflect on their own progress and will allow time in class for open and honest debate, where they can monitor this progress. RSE education will also be monitored by the Head of Department and SLT who will complete classroom observations as well as conversations with students.

We will ensure a safe learning environment where students will be able to ask questions and get support from fellow students and informed answers from their teachers. All teachers are trained in safeguarding procedures. Ground rules will be made by the class and the teacher and will be followed during all of these lessons, in all year groups. Student's questions will be answered factually and using age appropriate language. Sensitive issues will be handled carefully and differentiated according to the needs of the group and individuals in it. Students will also be able to raise questions anonymously should they wish. All staff teaching RSE will be supported by the Head of Department and the SLT team.

Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a Child Protection issue, this will be dealt with by the member of staff as per school guidelines. Teachers will consult with the Designated Safeguarding lead and in his /her absence their Deputy. Visitors/external agencies which support the delivery of RSE will be required to follow all procedures set by the school for external visitors and will be accompanied by the class teacher.

We work closely with parents to ensure that they are fully aware of what is being taught and provide additional resources and support through regular MILK communications. As part of our whole school approach to RSE, Parent Information sessions and opportunities for parents to view the materials and resources used will be offered. As RSE is taught as part of a spiralling curriculum it will be taught as appropriate to all year groups and at various times throughout the school year. Student voice will be used to review and tailor our RSE programme to match the different needs of students, the curriculum will also be influenced by local and national events.

The policy will be reviewed by the Head of Department, SLT and Governors every 2 years or when required due to legislative changes.