



Title	Relationships and Sex Education Policy
Reviewed	September 2025
Next Review	September 2026
Associated Policies	Teaching and Learning Policy Assessment Policy Child Protection Policy
Approved	Ian Pearson, Principal

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1. Aims

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

- › 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

2. Statutory requirements

As a primary academy school 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.

At Victoria Primary Academy we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

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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 – Katie Osborne, the PSHE lead 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 invited to look at the policy and give feedback
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared and ratified

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, 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.

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) and computing.

Year 4 and Year 5 receive stand-alone puberty sessions and Year 6 pupils receive stand-alone sex education sessions. All three year groups have letters sent out to parents ahead of time to explain what areas they will be covering during their sessions. All resources are available and are able to be shared at a parent/carers request. Parent carers have the right to withdraw their child from these sessions. See section 8.

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).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The Trust

The Trust will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Principal to account for its implementation.

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 non-statutory components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

All class teachers are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
 - Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
 - Monitoring progress
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- › 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.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components 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.

The Principal will 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 Katie Osborne PSHE lead, through:

Planning scrutiny, learning walks and pupil conversations/questionnaires.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Principal.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Relationships and sex education curriculum map

	Autumn 1 Being Me in the World	Autumn 2 Celebrating Difference	Spring 1 Dreams and Goals	Spring 2 Healthy Me	Summer 1 Relationships	Summer 2 Changing Me
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling special and safe Being part of a class Rights and responsibilities Rewards and feeling proud Consequences Owning the Learning Charter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarities and differences Understanding bullying and knowing how to deal with it Making new friends Celebrating the differences in everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting goals Identifying successes and achievements Learning styles Working well and celebrating achievement with a partner Tackling new challenges Identifying and overcoming obstacles Feelings of success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping myself healthy Healthier lifestyle choices Keeping clean Being safe Medicine safety/safety with household items Road safety Linking health and happiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belonging to a family Making friends/being a good friend Physical contact preferences People who help us Qualities as a friend and person Self-acknowledgement Being a good friend to myself Celebrating special relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life cycles – animal and human Changes in me Changes since being a baby Keeping private areas private Linking growing and learning Coping with change Transition
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopes and fears for the year Rights and responsibilities Rewards and consequences Safe and fair learning environment Valuing contributions Choices Recognising feelings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumptions and stereotypes about gender Understanding bullying Standing up for self and others Making new friends Gender diversity Celebrating difference and remaining friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving realistic goals Perseverance Learning strengths Learning with others Group co-operation Contributing to and sharing success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivation Healthier choices Relaxation Healthy eating and nutrition Healthier snacks and sharing food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different types of family Physical contact boundaries Friendship and conflict Secrets Trust and appreciation Expressing appreciation for special relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life cycles in nature Growing from young to old Increasing independence Differences in female and male bodies (correct terminology) Assertiveness Preparing for transition

Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting personal goals Self-identity and worth Positivity in challenges Rules, rights and responsibilities Rewards and consequences Responsible choices Seeing things from others' perspectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and their differences Family conflict and how to manage it (child-centred) Witnessing bullying and how to solve it Recognising how words can be hurtful Giving and receiving compliments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult challenges and achieving success Dreams and ambitions New challenges Motivation and enthusiasm Recognising and trying to overcome obstacles Evaluating learning processes Managing feelings Simple budgeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise Fitness challenges Food labelling and healthy swaps Attitudes towards drugs Keeping safe and why it's important online and off-line scenarios Respect for myself and others Healthy and safe choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family roles and responsibilities Friendship and negotiation Keeping safe online and who to go to for help Being a global citizen Being aware of how my choices affect others Awareness of how other children have different lives Expressing appreciation for family and friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding a baby's needs Differences in female and male bodies (correct terminology) Family stereotypes Challenging my ideas Preparing for transition
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being part of a class team Being a school citizen Rights, responsibilities and democracy (school council) Rewards and consequences Group decision-making Having a voice What motivates behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenging assumptions Judging by appearance Accepting self and others Understanding influences Understanding bullying Problem-solving Identifying how special and unique everyone is First impressions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopes and dreams Overcoming disappointment Creating new, realistic dreams Achieving goals Working in a group Celebrating contributions Resilience Positive attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthier friendships Group dynamics Smoking Alcohol Assertiveness Peer pressure Celebrating inner strength 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jealousy Love and loss Memories of loved ones Getting on and Falling Out Girlfriends and boyfriends Showing appreciation to people and animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being unique Having a baby Outside body changes Inside body changes Girls and puberty Confidence in change Accepting change Preparing for transition Environmental change

Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning the forthcoming year Being a citizen Rights and responsibilities Rewards and consequences How behaviour affects groups Democracy, having a voice, participating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural differences and how they can cause conflict Racism Rumours and name-calling Types of bullying Material wealth and happiness Enjoying and respecting other cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future dreams The importance of money Jobs and careers Dream job and how to get there Goals in different cultures Supporting others (charity) Motivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoking, including vaping Alcohol Alcohol and anti-social behaviour Emergency aid Body image Relationships with food Healthy choices Motivation and behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-recognition and self-worth Building self-esteem Safer online communities Rights and responsibilities online Online gaming and gambling Reducing screen time Dangers of online grooming SMARRT internet safety rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self- and body image Influence of online and media on body image Puberty for girls Puberty for boys Conception Growing responsibility Coping with change Preparing for transition
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying goals for the year Global citizenship Children's universal rights Feeling welcome and valued Choices, consequences and rewards Group dynamics Democracy, having a voice Anti-social behaviour Role-modelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perceptions of normality Understanding disability Power struggles Understanding bullying Inclusion/exclusion Differences as conflict, difference as celebration Empathy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal learning goals, in and out of school Success criteria Emotions in success Making a difference in the world Motivation Recognising achievements Compliments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking personal responsibility How substances affect the body Exploitation, including 'county lines' and gang culture Emotional and mental health Managing stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health Identifying mental health worries and sources of support Love and loss Managing feelings Power and control Assertiveness Technology safety Take responsibility with technology use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-image Body image Puberty and feelings Conception to birth Respect, assertiveness and consent Reflections about change

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
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	
