



# Relationship and Sex Education Policy

A joint policy for

Newport Infant and Newport Junior School

Date Policy Written and Agreed by Governors:	Date of last review:	Date of next review:
Spring 2020	Spring 2025	Spring 2026

## Introduction

We have based our school's relationship and sex education policy on the statutory guidance from the DfE issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996. The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education regulations 2019 are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

We refer to RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) and we place the emphasis on relationships and supporting pupils understanding and skill in developing positive and healthy relationships. Our definition is that this work is a lifelong learning process; it is about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It involves teaching about sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual identity or sexual activity. RSE in our school is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum. It is our belief that RSE is the responsibility of all staff and should be an integral part of teaching and learning processes. Education for personal growth and self-esteem, including sex and health education complements and overlaps with the personal, social and emotional development of the child and the general life of the school, relationships with one another, including staff and parents, socialisation, values and attitudes.

## Definition

Ofsted 2002 recommendations have informed our policy and practice, in particular:

*'A caring and developmental SRE programme needs to be more than just biology and the fundamentals of reproduction. Young people want reassurance about their body image, behaviour, feelings and relationships. They also need knowledge and skills appropriate to their level of maturity and developmental needs'.*

The Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education (*Sex and Relationship Guidance: A Christian Perspective 2008*) states that 'Sex and Relationship Education is part of a child's broad, balanced curriculum, integral to the basic curriculum of the school and part of the child's all round development'. Our policy for Relationship and Sex Education is written in accordance with this philosophy.

"In Church of England schools, RSE will be rooted in the teachings of the Church, including the importance of trust, loyalty, fidelity and the Christian understanding of marriage as the context for sexual relationships, as well as the understanding of abstinence and celibacy as positive life choices.

In partnership with parents, schools have a vital role to play in the formation of our children. Taking that responsibility seriously means we are not prepared to leave their development to the distorted representations of sex and relationships that are just a few clicks away on their phones and computers, but will actively promote staying safe, developing healthy relationships, and protecting self-esteem and good mental health. That's what good RSE should aim for as it contributes to an education that develops dignity and respect."

Nigel Genders the Church of England's Chief Education Officer  
2019 response to DfE guidance

In planning and presenting our RSE programme we provide an opportunity for pupils to express themselves within a trusted and safe environment. Central to our PSHE programme is the development of pupils' self-esteem. If young people feel positive and good about themselves, they are more likely to take care of themselves, think positively of other people, and therefore develop nonexploitative, caring relationships. They are also less likely to be exploited by others.

Our policy and practice is based upon national guidance and good practice, consistent with Telford and Wrekin recommendations. This policy is crossreferenced and consistent with other policies such as Safeguarding, Bullying, Equal Opportunities, Science, PSHE. PE etc.

### Equal Opportunities

We value equality of opportunity highly. The RSE curriculum offers children the opportunity to discuss attitudes and values relating to equality issues and the protected characteristics of age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership or sexual orientation.

As part of our whole school approach our RSE programme fosters gender and LGBT+ equality, challenging all forms of discrimination and bullying. We are respectful of how pupils choose to identify themselves, understanding that their sexual orientation and gender identity may be emerging and fluid.

## Safeguarding

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 issues.

Safeguarding procedures, as specified by Keeping Children Safe in Education are followed. All referrals, whatever their origin are taken seriously and considered with an open mind, which does not pre-judge the situation. The procedures adopted for handling cases of neglect, physical, emotional, sexual abuse and failure to thrive involving children and young persons, are based on the principle that the interests and welfare of the child or young person are of paramount importance.

Any concerns arising concerning a child or any indications that a child or children are at risk of harm or in danger will be discussed with the head teacher or child protection lead in accordance with the Child Protection policy.

Pupils' questions will be responded to by all staff (teaching and non-teaching) as they arise in a straightforward way. Factual, simple and correct information will be provided using correct terminology for body parts and functions appropriate to the age of the child.

School staff have the right not to feel under pressure to answer difficult questions on the spot and will use distancing techniques such as referring the question to a question box. This allows time for reflection about the most appropriate way to respond. Staff have been provided with a process for responding to questions.

The use of sexualised language, swear and slang terms, including homophobic language will be addressed with pupils and as appropriate parents/carers.

The Intent of our RSE Curriculum:

- Raise and promote positive self esteem
- Help pupils develop their skills and confidence in making decisions, communication, assertiveness, self-expression, respect for themselves and others
- Help pupils communicate and understand their feelings and emotions
- Provide pupils with skills necessary to keep themselves happy and safe
- Prepare pupils for the physical and emotional changes of growing up
- Offer opportunity for pupils to develop and clarify their attitudes and values • Counteract myths and misinformation
- Challenge media stereotypes, oppression and prejudice and promote equal opportunities
- Explain the meaning of words in a sensible and factual way, using correct names for body parts and functions
- Provide reassurance that change is part of the life cycle and help pupils accept variations
- Develop the confidence to seek help, support and advice.
- To understand the value of family life, the implications of parenthood and the need for the proper care of all young things
- To develop skills in personal relationships, e.g. communication, assertiveness, decision making
- To work with parents to provide a well balanced viewpoint on all aspects of RSE for children so that their social, emotional and physical health is safeguarded.

## Implementation

We are committed to ensuring our programme is age appropriate. We are aware that the issues and concerns facing pupils change and our programme needs to be flexible and responsive. We take advice and are updated on a regular basis by Telford Public Health on local contextual safeguarding issues, national trends and data.

We follow good practice recommendations and use additional resources from reliable and authoritative experts such as the PSHE Association, the Sex Education Forum, Public Health England and CEOP.

The main delivery of RSE is through PSHE, but some aspects are also taught through other subject areas such as science and PE. It is taught by the class teacher, and where possible other members of staff to provide a gender balance, whenever possible.

Work in single and mixed gender groups and small groups will be used based on learning and developmental need.

We use the Shropshire Respect Yourself: RSE programme. This teaches children to understand and respect themselves and their bodies as part of a healthy lifestyle approach. The RSE topic has three sections; Choices and Challenges, Changes and Care and Commitment.

In year 5 & 6 there is a greater emphasis on the changes that occur in puberty. Year 6 uses the Shropshire RSE Transition Programme.

Pupils are taught about relationships and encouraged to discuss issues. We teach the parts of the body, using the correct terminology, how these work and how we change as we grow. We encourage children to ask for help, providing reassurance that change is part of life's cycle.

In science lessons in Key Stage 1 the children are taught about how humans change and grow and how a baby is born. The focus is on changes and growing, keeping our bodies and ourselves healthy and safe. For this aspect we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

### Home-school Partnership

We believe that parents have the primary role in delivering relationship and sex education. We aim to provide a programme as part of our home school partnership, ensuring all pupils receive high quality provision in line with national good practice recommendations, statutory and legal requirements related to Equality and Safeguarding.

It is hoped that the school curriculum and the ethos of the school complements and enhances home teaching and values, giving due regard to the value of family life, loving and stable relationships.

Children are exposed to information and messages from T.V, Internet, film, music videos, books and magazines. They are influenced by, family and friends and significant adults. Part of our role is to ensure that children are able to understand and interpret the information they receive.

We provide parents with opportunities to discuss the school's policy, practice and to understand the purpose and content of RSE. Parents will be informed about the timing of delivery and offered an opportunity to look at resources, discuss the policy and ask questions. In particular, we will provide parents of year 6 pupils with an opportunity to discuss what is being taught and support them to discuss issues with their children. What is taught is ultimately a

decision for school and agreed by governors. Consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content.

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education regulations 2019 (made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017) confirms the 1996 Education Act, that parents have the right to withdraw their child from part, or all of the sex education programme.

(There is no parental right of withdrawal from the science, relationship or health education curriculum, which includes understanding changing adolescent body).

If a parent wishes to do this, they should put in writing, to the headteacher, their desire for their child to be withdrawn from the sex education programme. We would encourage parents to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity with the teacher or head teacher. The head will discuss the implications and likely consequences of withdrawal from the non- statutory part of the curriculum.

The head will help parents identify and discuss the impact and implications of withdraw for their child, including the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child. This could include any social and emotional effects of feeling excluded, as well as the like hood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was said directly by the teacher.

Parents should make it clear which aspect of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in, this will be documented and parents may be asked to put their request in writing. Resources and information regarding delivering sex education at home will be made available.

### Role of Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the head to ensure that:

- policy and practice is developed in accordance with good practice guidelines and recommendations
- the policy is reviewed and monitored and approved by governors
- staff and parents are informed about policy
- staff receive appropriate training and support

### Monitoring and review

The governing body monitors and reviews our relationship and sex education policy as part of the monitoring cycle.

This joint policy between Newport Infant and Newport Junior School has been reviewed and updated in consultation with teaching and support staff and approved by *Governors*. It will be reviewed every two years.

E Robson  
Deputy Headteacher  
Newport Infant School

A Rotherham  
Deputy Headteacher  
Newport Junior School

## **Appendix 1**

Telford Young People's Good Practice Charter for RSE

# Shropshire Young People's Charter for Good Relationship and Sex Education

## We have the right to:

Good RSE whatever our sexuality.

Be treated with respect and dignity.

Make our own decisions.

Just say no.

Be told the truth.

Be taught about different sexualities.



## What we want to achieve these rights:

A broad and balanced curriculum.

Teach us in a language we can understand.

Tell us about relationships as well as sex.

Young people should be asked what they want to learn in RSE.

RSE should be relevant to all cultures and beliefs.

Professionals who are trained and can teach effectively.

RSE should take place in a comfortable and safe environment.

Make information available to all of us.

Teach us in both mixed and single sex groups, keeping numbers small.

Resources should be up to date and lessons should be fun.



RSE should start in primary school.

Tell our parents what is being taught in schools and how to get further information.

Different teaching styles should be used.

This Charter was written by young people from Shropshire Members of the Youth Parliament, Shropshire Speak Out Group, Shropshire Care Council Crew and Shropshire Xtra Safe Project.

## Appendix 2

DfE Learning Outcomes Relationship Education Key Stage 2 - By the end of primary school:

<p><b>Families and people who care for me</b></p>	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• That marriage (from 2013 available to both opposite and same sex couples in England and Wales) represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</li> <li>• How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Caring friendships</b></p>	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends.</li> <li>• the characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties.</li> <li>• that healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Respectful relationships</b>	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.</li> <li>• the conventions of courtesy and manners.</li> <li>• the importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• about different types of bullying (including cyber bullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help.</li> <li>• what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.</li> <li>• the importance of permission seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.</li> </ul>
<b>Online relationships</b>	<p>Pupils should know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• the rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them.</li> <li>• how to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met.</li> <li>• how information and data is shared and used online.</li> </ul>

Pupils should know

<p><b>Being safe</b> may encounter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• that each person’s body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.</li> <li>• how to respond safely and appropriately to adults they (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.</li> <li>• how to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.</li> <li>• how to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard.</li> <li>• how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.</li> <li>• where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Changing adolescent body</b></p>	<p>Pupils Should know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age11, including physical and emotional changes</li> <li>• About the menstrual wellbeing including the key facts about the menstrual cycle.</li> </ul>