



Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Revised: June 2020
Review date: May 2021

This policy should be read in conjunction with the OxSFC COVID-19 policy that overrides the guidelines/procedures in this policy, where appropriate. The guiding principle will always be to maintain the health and safety of all stakeholders.

Introduction

“The aim of Relationships & Sex Education (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 and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. 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.”

Source: Statutory guidance, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) (Secondary), Updated 25 July 2019

Delivery

- Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) is delivered primarily by Senior Tutors via the college’s PSHE programme.
- Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) is designed to prepare all students for the future, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- PSHE sessions take place weekly for 45 minutes across the College year.
- PSHE sessions include a range of delivery approaches, such as direct instruction, discussion, role play, video clips & presentations, individual, paired & group work.
- Other means of delivery may also be used to supplement this, where appropriate. These may include external speakers, online learning and trips & visits.
- Whole college events may also be used to supplement RSE elements of the PSHE programme.
- Where appropriate RSE may also be incorporated into the SOW in subject areas (e.g. biology; sociology).

Content

- A comprehensive PSHE scheme of work is produced which includes RSE appropriate to the needs of different age groups. It covers the following topics:

Topic	What students should know
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that there are different types of committed, stable heterosexual and same sex relationships. • how these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children. • what marriage is, including their legal status – for example, that marriage carries legal rights and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony. • why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into. • the characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships. • the roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting. • 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 to recognise this in others’ relationships), how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the characteristics of positive and healthy friendships, in all contexts including online, such as: • trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict • reconciliation and ending relationships, this includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship • practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships • how stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender orientation, or disability, can cause damage (for example, how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice) • 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 people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people’s beliefs • about different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help • that some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control • what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable • the legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is

	unique and equal
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online • about online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online • not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them • what to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online • the impact of viewing harmful content • that specifically sexually explicit material, for example 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 • that sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail • how information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships • 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
Intimate & sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • that all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, for example physical, emotional, mental, sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing • the facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women and menopause • that there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others • that they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex • the facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available • the facts around pregnancy including miscarriage • that 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) • how the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing • about the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment • how the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour • how to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment
The Law	It is important to know what the law says about sex, relationships and young people, as well

	<p>as broader safeguarding issues. This includes a range of important facts and the rules regarding sharing personal information, pictures, videos and other material using technology. This will help young people to know what is right and wrong in law, but it can also provide a good foundation of knowledge for deeper discussion about all types of relationships. There are also many different legal provisions whose purpose is to protect young people and which ensure young people take responsibility for their actions.</p> <p>Students will be made aware of the relevant legal provisions when relevant topics are being taught, including for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marriage • consent, including the age of consent • violence against women and girls • online behaviours including image and information sharing (including ‘sexting’, youth-produced sexual imagery, nudes, etc.) • pornography • abortion • sexuality • gender identity • substance misuse • violence and exploitation by gangs • extremism and radicalisation • criminal exploitation (for example, through gang involvement or ‘county lines’ drugs operations) • hate crime • female genital mutilation (FGM)
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Production

- This policy has been produced by consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Review

- Feedback on the delivery of RSE will be kept under review using feedback which may include formal (e.g. questionnaires) and informal means (e.g. discussions with parents / carers).

SEND & EAL

- The content will be adapted to the needs of SEND & EAL using differentiation when relevant. Where necessary group provision may be replaced or supplemented with individual provision via the Senior Tutor.

Right of withdrawal

- Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Before granting any such request the Principal will discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood

and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The College will document this process to ensure a record is kept.

Equality

- The RSE provision will incorporate legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal.

Updates

- The policy is updated annually.

Approval

- The policy is approved by the SLT.

References

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-and-sex-education-rse-secondary>