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Ethos College

RSE Policy

October 2023



Nurturing inclusive learning communities



1	Summary	RSE Policy								
2	Responsible person	Jack Ghee								
3	Accountable ELT member	Rebecca Smith								
4	Applies to	All Ethos College								
5	Trustees and/or individuals who have overseen development of this policy	N/A								
6	Headteachers/Service Heads who were consulted and have given approval (if applicable)	Rebecca Smith								
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20/09/2022	1.2	Policy revision	Policy adapted to local academy policy
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1. Introduction

Ethos College considers that Relationships, Sex and Education (RSE) is an integral part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and is embedded throughout the curriculum (eg. science, PE, topic based learning) and throughout the school day. We aim to offer students a carefully planned programme on human development, relationships, sexuality and family life within a safe, comfortable atmosphere and in a relaxed relationship between teacher and pupil. The programme is set within a moral framework and matched to the pupils' level of maturity. The policy is informed by [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex education \(RSE\) and Health Education statutory guidance \(DfE,2019\)](#)

2. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) within our provision 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 to value themselves and others
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

At Ethos College, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

As a secondary school, Ethos College must provide RSE to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

In teaching RSE, we're 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](#).

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social, cultural development and physical aspects of growing up, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identify. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education. It also gives pupils and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships, sharing information and exploring issues and values and staying safe both on and offline (21st Century Guidance 2014).

5. Policy development

In developing our policy and curriculum we have given due regard to the Government's statutory guidance for RSE. The views of the whole school community have been considered when developing the policy and content of RSE and involved the following steps:

1. **Review** – a member of staff reviewed current practice and pulled together all relevant information including national and local guidance
2. **Inform** - DfE guidance and information about RSE was shared with stakeholders (children, staff, parents, and trustees).
3. **Staff Consultation** – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
4. **Parent/Trustee consultation** – parents and any interested parties were invited to contribute to the policy and practice
5. **Pupil consultation** – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
6. **Approval** – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with Trustees and approved
7. **Support** – the final policy, curriculum and resources were shared with all stakeholder and added to the school website. This will help parents complement the teaching in school

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The Board of Trustees

The Learning and Achievement Committee will represent the Board of Trustees in approving the RSE policy, and hold the CEO and Head Teachers to account for the implementation of this policy.

6.2 The Head Teacher

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, that parents and staff are informed about our RSE policy, that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity, monitor this policy on a regular basis and report to trustees on the effectiveness and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE.

6.3 Staff

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of continuing professional development and are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the [non-statutory/non-science] 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 headteacher.

6.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

6.5 Parents

Parents right to withdraw for secondary academies and free schools

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative school work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

7. Delivery of RSE Curriculum

RSE is not delivered in isolation; it is embedded throughout the school's curriculum, both in academic lessons and wider aspects of school life. The programme of study builds on an individual's knowledge, skills and experiences, demonstrating inclusion throughout, using a

blend of active teaching methods, opportunities to practice skills and become familiar with situations. The school's curriculum is designed to ensure that students have acquired the knowledge and skills set out in appendix 1 & 2.

The broader personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) programme includes economic well-being, careers and enterprise education.

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
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health (KS3/4)

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, LGBTQ+ 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 will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see please visit the academies website or contact them for further information.

7.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- During lessons, makes pupils feel:
 - Safe and supported
 - Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
 - A whole-class setting
 - Small groups or targeted sessions

- 1-to-1 discussions
- Digital formats
- Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

7.2 Use of resources

We will consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

8. Monitoring the Quality of Provision for RSE

A designated member of staff in each academy will report to the Headteacher and the RSE link trustee to discuss the quality of provision and effectiveness of RSE curriculum. The quality of teaching and learning of RSE is monitored by Senior Leaders through planning scrutiny, learning walks, pupil discussions and examples of work.

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

This policy and scheme of work will be regularly reviewed bi-annually by the Personal Development lead and Senior Leadership Team at Ethos College and any feedback from teachers, parents/carers and pupils will be considered.

9. Policy Review

- The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the RSE subject lead and the Headteacher. Changes will be communicated to all staff and parents and will be approved by the Board of Trustees.
- The review should consider any changes to statutory guidance; feedback from pupils, parents or staff; and the school context.

10. Further Policies

In conjunction with this policy, please also see:

- Behaviour policy and procedures

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Confidentiality procedures
- SMSC Policy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Personal, Social, Health & Economical

Appendix A: 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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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 B: By the end of secondary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there are different types of committed, stable relationships • How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children • What marriage is, including their legal status, e.g. 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); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including: 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 or disability, can cause damage (e.g. 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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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 e.g. 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)

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Intimate and 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, e.g. 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 • 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/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

Appendix C: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

Parental withdrawal from sex education delivered as part of the RSE/PSHE ed curriculum

The parent(s) and the Headteacher will complete the form: This will record the main points of the discussion (if this has taken place), the reason for the withdrawal, and the arrangements for ensuring the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. This will be reviewed at least annually.

Parental withdrawal from sex education delivered as part of the RSHE/PSHE ed curriculum A copy of this form should be given to the parent(s) and a copy retained in school	
To be completed by the parent(s)	
Name of child	
Name of parent(s)	
Year group/class	
Reason for withdrawing the child from sex education delivered as part of RSHE/PSHE education	
Any other information you wish the school to consider	
Parent(s) signature	
To be completed by the Headteacher	
Notes from discussion with parent(s)	
How the school will inform the parent about sex education	
Where the pupil will work/supervision	
Work to be undertaken by the pupil at this time	
Headteacher signature	
Review date	