



SPRINGWELL
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Date of Issue: November 2021



Relationships and Sex Education, RSE, Policy

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' 2019, updated September 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

1. Context

The provision for SRE education at Springwell Community College is based upon the 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, and teachers published by DfE 2019 (updated September 2021). The statutory guidance sets out the need for all students to have comprehensive discreet RSE lessons targeted for the appropriate age range. All students will have access to support and information that will enable them to prepare for the complexities of adult life. This is to, prepare students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene. It also aims to help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy and create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.

This policy will be reviewed in 2022 following the first full year of compulsory RSE. Throughout the year adjustments will be made in line with any guidance from the DfE. This will ensure that Springwell Community College will meet the statutory legislation for the teaching of RSE.

2. What is Relationships and Sex Education?

Relationships and Sex Education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in Science, RE, PE, and others are taught as part of Personal Development sessions. It gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. It also gives a comprehensive programme of RSE and provides accurate information about the complexities of understanding relationships and sexual development as well as aspects of physical and mental wellbeing. A more detailed overview can be found in 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' 2019 (updated September 2021) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

In any school that provides RSE, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from some or all of Sex Education delivered as statutory RSE. This is up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher.

3. Why is Relationships and Sex Education in schools important?

High quality RSE helps create safe school communities in which students can grow, learn, and develop positive, healthy behaviours for life.

As a secondary academy school we must provide RSE to all students as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).



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](#).

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

This is why we (DfE) have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. The key decisions on these subjects have been informed by a thorough engagement process, including a public call for evidence that received over 23,000 responses from parent and carers, young people, schools and experts and a public consultation where over 40,000 people contacted the Department for Education.

'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' 2019
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

Under the new Ofsted Framework, RSE will be inspected in the 'Quality of Education' judgement as a core curriculum subject.

4. What is high quality Relationships and Sex education?

Springwell Community College expects that Relationships and Sex Education, through curriculum lessons and Personal Development sessions:

- is a partnership between home and school. With parental/carer consultation taking place annually.
- includes the acquisition of knowledge, the development of life skills and respectful attitudes and values.
- has sufficient opportunity to cover a wide range of topics, with a strong emphasis on relationships, consent, rights, responsibilities to others, negotiation and communication skills, and accessing services.
- helps students understand on and offline safety, consent, violence and exploitation.
- is inclusive of difference: gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, culture, age, faith or belief, or other life experience.
- teaches students about the law and their rights to confidentiality even if they are under 16, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations.
- promotes equality in relationships, recognises and challenges gender inequality and reflects girls' and boys' different experiences and needs

5. How RSE is taught

RSE is taught through specific curriculum time, during weekly Personal Development lessons, during form tutor times and as part of the wider curriculum. This will include classroom-based activities with an identified Personal Development tutor, form tutor time and safe space discussion of topics, whilst continuing to be addressed where relevant as part of the core curriculum. Use of third parties is an ongoing area of development to ensure students have access to a wide range of expertise. Students will also have access to external providers such as Chesterfield College who offer sessions on puberty, sexual health, personal hygiene and Female Genital Mutilation.

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

➤ Families



- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

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).

6. Consultation

As part of the development of the RSE curriculum at Springwell Community College, parents and carers will be contacted on a yearly basis (see appendix 1) in regards to what is being taught on the RSE curriculum and given the opportunity to respond with any queries or suggestions they may have. A staff overview has been sent out allowing for staff to see the topics being covered in advance and request any support in preparation for teaching some of the more sensitive topics.

Student consultation takes place on a regular basis. An RSE specific student panel will be set up as soon as Covid regulations allow the mixing of year groups.



Appendix 1: Parent and Carer Consultation Letter

26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Relationships and Sex Education, RSE

Springwell Community College is committed to providing a high-quality educational experience, encouraging our young people to enhance their life choices. Our curriculum determines and underpins the whole ethos of our college, celebrating achievement and encouraging students to achieve excellence. At Springwell Community College, our Personal Development curriculum brings together citizenship with personal well-being, whilst promoting fundamental British Values, ensuring our young people become responsible citizens. Our Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) provision ensures that students are equipped with the information, skills and values to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.

Personal Development is taught through discreet, age appropriate lessons, but it also underpins regular tutor time activities, assemblies, and educational visits. It is intended that we will offer a cohesive whole-college approach which enables our young people to become healthy, independent, and responsible members of society. It is delivered to all students in accordance with the college's Equal Opportunities Policy and the requirements of the DfE Sex and Relationships, Education Guidance (2000) and the more recent Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 which are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

At Springwell Community College, Relationships and Sex Education:

- is a partnership between home and college.
- includes the acquisition of knowledge, the development of life skills and respectful attitudes and values.
- has sufficient opportunity to cover a wide range of topics, with a strong emphasis on relationships, consent, rights, responsibilities to others, negotiation and communication skills, and accessing services.
- helps students understand on and offline safety, consent, violence and exploitation.
- is inclusive of difference: gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, culture, age, faith or belief, or other life experience.
- teaches students about the law and their rights to confidentiality even if they are under 16, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations.
- promotes equality in relationships, recognises and challenges gender inequality and reflects girls' and boys' different experiences and needs

What topics will be covered and when?

1. RSE in Key Stage 3

At this age, students are going through numerous changes both physically and mentally. The sessions will cover:

- Changes to the body, emotions and mental health during puberty
- Human fertility
- Contraception



- Personal responsibility for Health (e.g. personal hygiene, healthy habits, internet use)
- The menstrual cycle
- Sexual Relationships and an individual's health (including STIs, HIV and AIDs).
- Introduction to consent and thinking about personal boundaries and how to set them
- The effect of the media and the internet on body image

2. RSE in Key Stage 4

The sessions will address:

- Human Fertility - how males and females differ in their fertility
- The impact of the Internet and mobile technology on sexual issues and how this might be different for boys and girls.
- Pornography and the potential for it to affect their relationships and expectations
- Peer pressure and how it may affect the choices they make
- Choices and alternatives to different sexual situations.
- Consent in the context of relationships
- Self-care (breast and testicle examination)
- Healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Teenage parenthood

We are working to make sure that our new curriculum reflects:

- Our students' age and maturity levels, as well as their cultural and religious backgrounds
- The values of our college community to achieve nothing but the best
- Every students' learning needs
- What students need to know to be healthy and safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world.

If you would like any more information, the RSE policy along with some resources (including the DfE's statutory guidance) is located on the college's website. If you would like to provide feedback on our policy, make comment or contribute ideas, please feel free to email me at the college; amy.woodhouse@springwell.ttct.co.uk before 5th December 2021.

Yours faithfully



A Woodhouse
Faculty Leader - Personal Development

