

RSE / PSHE Guidance

Information for parents

January 2024



Statutory Content

- **Health Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)** education will be compulsory in all secondary schools from September 2020 – recent amendment, Summer 2021.
- **This covers broad areas of particular relevance and concern to children and young people today.** It should ensure that every pupil is guaranteed a PSHE education that covers mental health and wellbeing; physical health (including healthy lifestyles and first aid); learning about safe, healthy relationships and sex (including understanding consent, negotiating life online, intimate relationships).
- **Schools should tailor their programme to the needs of their pupils and communities in order to be effective. There is no ‘one-size-fits-all solution’ but PSHE education needs regular curriculum time.**
- **Health, relationships, economic wellbeing and successful careers are all linked. PSHE is the glue that binds them together.**



Schools with Distinctive Faith Backgrounds

- In **all** schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of all pupils must be taken into account, so that the topics that are included in the core content in this guidance are **appropriately handled**.
- Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, under which religion or belief are amongst the protected characteristics.
- All schools may teach about faith perspectives. In particular, schools with a religious character may teach the distinctive faith perspective on relationships, and balanced debate may take place about issues that are seen as contentious.
- In all schools, teaching should reflect the law (including the Equality Act 2010) as it applies to relationships, so that young people clearly understand what the law allows and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of decisions they may make.



Key Staff & Practical Considerations

- Ashley Willis / Sian Bithell
- RE department
- Personal Development Lead: S Cumbo
- Charlotte Slattery

- RSE to be part of the RE curriculum, taught in RE lessons years 7-10
- PHSE to have a timetabled lesson 1 per fortnight, years 7-11.
- Additional drop down days may be used to complement.



Right to Withdraw.

- Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.
- Parents do not have a right to withdraw their child from Health education, Relationships or any other aspect of PSHE education.
- **There is no right of withdrawal from National Curriculum science** which includes elements of sex education such as puberty and reproduction.
- Three terms before they turn 16, **a student can opt back in to sex education lessons** against their parents' wishes.



RSE / PSHE Policy

St Joseph's College

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION & PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

THIS POLICY LINKS WITH:

- Anti-bullying policy
- Attendance policy
- Behaviour Management policy
- Drug Education and the Management of Drug Related Incidents Policy
- Equal Opportunities policy
- Health and Safety policy and other linked policies and risk assessments
- ICT acceptable use policy
- Managing Allegations Policy
- Safeguarding: Online Safety & Social Media policy
- Safeguarding: Child Protection Policy

Date of Latest Review:	November 2023
Next Review Date:	November 2025
Policy Available for Staff at:	TEAMS
Policy Available for Parents at:	Website
RSE / PSHE Lead:	Mrs C Slattery / Mrs Gilding / Mrs S Cumbo
Headteacher:	Ms M Roberts

- All secondary schools are required to have a Relationships and Sex Education policy in place. This must be freely available for parents to access, and include:
 - an outline of content
 - a rationale for this learning
 - a clear procedure for withdrawal from sex education
 - reasons why the school believes children should not be withdrawn from these lessons
- Our policy can be found on the school's website