

# Secondary School RSE and Health Education Policy

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## Statement of intent

At **Derby Cathedral School**, we understand the importance of educating pupils about sex, relationships and their health, for them to make responsible and well-informed decisions in their lives.

The teaching of RSE and health education can help to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It allows us to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and in the wider society.

We have an obligation to provide pupils with high-quality, evidence and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects. This policy outlines how the school's RSE and health education curriculum will be organised and delivered, to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils.

## 1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- *Equality Act 2010*
- *DfE (2019) 'Keeping children safe in education'*
- *DfE (2019) 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education'*
- *DfE (2015) 'National curriculum in England: science programmes of study'*
- *The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019*
- *Children and Social Work Act 2017*

1.2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- *Behavioural Policy*
- *Inclusion Policy*
- *SEND Policy*
- *E-safety Policy*
- *Equal Opportunities Policy*
- *Anti-Bullying Policy*
- *Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy*
- *Harmful Sexual Behaviour Policy*
- *Pupil Confidentiality Policy*
- *Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy*
- *Records Management Policy*
- *Acceptable Terms of Use Agreement*

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1. The governing board is responsible for:

- *Ensuring all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes.*
- *Ensuring the RSE and health education curriculum is well-led, effectively managed and well-planned.*
- *Evaluating the quality of provision through regular and effective self-evaluation.*

- ***Ensuring that teaching is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND.***
- ***Providing clear information to parents on the subject content and the right to request that their child is withdrawn.***
- ***Ensuring RSE and health education is resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures the school can fulfil its legal obligations.***
- ***[Faith schools] Maintaining and developing the religious ethos of the school.***

2.2. The **Headteacher** is responsible for:

- ***The overall implementation of this policy.***
- ***Ensuring all staff are suitably trained to deliver the subjects.***
- ***Ensuring parent are fully informed of this policy.***
- ***Reviewing all requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory elements of the RSE and health education curriculum.***
- ***Discussing withdrawal requests with parents, and the child if appropriate, to ensure their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum, including the benefits of receiving the education.***
- ***Ensuring withdrawn pupils receive appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.***
- ***Encouraging parents to be involved in consultations regarding the school's RSE and health education curriculum.***
- ***Reviewing this policy on an annual basis.***
- ***Reporting to the governing board on the effectiveness of this policy and the curriculum.***

2.3. The **RSE and health education subject leader** is responsible for:

- ***Overseeing the delivery of RSE and health education.***
- ***Working closely with colleagues in related curriculum areas to ensure the RSE and health education curriculum compliments, and does not duplicate, the content covered in national curriculum subjects.***
- ***Ensuring the curriculum is age-appropriate and of high-quality.***
- ***Reviewing changes to the RSE and health education curriculum and advising on their implementation.***
- ***Monitoring the learning and teaching of RSE and health education, providing support to staff where necessary.***
- ***Ensuring the continuity and progression between each year group.***

- *Helping to develop colleagues' expertise in the subject.*
- *Ensuring teachers are provided with adequate resources to support teaching of the curriculum.*
- *Ensuring the school meets its statutory requirements in relation to RSE and health education.*
- *Leading staff meetings and ensuring all members of staff involved in the curriculum have received the appropriate training.*
- *Organising, providing and monitoring CPD opportunities in the subject.*
- *Ensuring the correct standards are met for recording and assessing pupil performance.*
- *Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the subjects and providing reports to the Headteacher.*

2.4. Subject teachers are responsible for:

- *Acting in accordance with, and promoting, this policy*
- *Delivering RSE and health education in a sensitive way and that is of a high-quality and appropriate for each year group.*
- *Ensuring they do not express personal views or beliefs when delivering the curriculum.*
- *Planning lessons effectively, ensuring a range of appropriate teaching methods and resources are used to cover the content.*
- *Modelling positive attitudes to RSE and health education.*
- *Liaising with the SENCO about identifying and responding to the individual needs of pupils with SEND.*
- *Liaising with the RSE and health education subject leader about key topics, resources and support for individual pupils.*
- *Monitoring pupil progress in RSE and health education.*
- *Reporting any concerns regarding the teaching of RSE or health education to the RSE and health education subject leader or a member of the SLT.*
- *Reporting any safeguarding concerns or disclosures that pupils may make as a result of the subject content to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.*
- *Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents have requested to withdraw them from the non-statutory components of RSE, by providing them with alternative education opportunities.*

2.5. The SENCO is responsible for:

- **Advising teaching staff how best to identify and support pupils' individual needs.**
- **Advising staff on the use of TAs in order to meet pupils' individual needs.**

### 3. Organisation of the RSE and health education curriculum

- 3.1. All schools providing secondary education are required to deliver statutory RSE and all state-funded schools are required to deliver health education.
- 3.2. For the purpose of this policy, “**relationships and sex education**” is defined as teaching pupils about developing healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, and helping them to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others.
- 3.3. For the purpose of this policy, “**health education**” is defined as teaching pupils about how they can make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, and how physical health and mental wellbeing are interlinked.
- 3.4. The RSE and health education curriculum will be developed in consultation with teachers, pupils and parents, and in accordance with DfE recommendations.
- 3.5. We will gather the views of teachers, pupils and parents in the following ways:
  - **Questionnaires**
  - **Meetings**
  - **Letters**
  - **Training sessions**
- 3.6. The majority of the RSE and health education curriculum will be delivered through **PSHE education**, with some statutory elements taught via the science curriculum.
- 3.7. The **RSE and health education subject leader** will work closely with their colleagues in related curriculum areas to ensure the curriculum complements and does not duplicate the content covered in national curriculum subjects.
- 3.8. The curriculum has been developed in line with the DfE's draft 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' guidance.
- 3.9. The school will consider the context and views of the wider local community when developing the curriculum to ensure it is reflective of issues in the local area.
- 3.10. The school will consider the religious background of all pupils when planning teaching, to ensure all topics included are appropriately handled.

- 3.11. The RSE and health education curriculum is informed by topical issues in the school and wider community, to ensure it is tailored to pupils' needs, for example, if there was a local prevalence of specific sexually transmitted infections, our curriculum would be tailored to address this issue.

## 4. RSE subject overview

- 4.1. RSE will continue to develop pupils' knowledge on the topics taught at a primary level, in addition to the content outlined in this section.

### Families

- 4.2. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- *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 children, including the characteristics of successful parenting.*

- 4.3. Pupils will also know 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 recognise this in others' relationships.*
- *How to seek help or advice if needed, including reporting concerns about others.*

### Respectful relationships, including friendships

- 4.4. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- *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 relationships.*

- *Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.*
- *How stereotypes, particularly those based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage, e.g. how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour.*
- *That in school and 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 seek help.*
- *The types of behaviour in relationships that can be criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control.*
- *What constitutes sexual harassment and violence and why these are always unacceptable.*
- *The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality, with reference to the protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010, and that everyone is unique and equal.*

#### **Online and media**

4.5. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- *Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, and that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts.*
- *About online risks, including that material shared with another person 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 they receive.*
- *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 is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties, including jail.*
- *How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online.*

## **Being safe**

4.6. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- ***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 – this includes online.***

## **Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health**

4.7. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- ***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 and 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 both men and women.***
- ***The 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 enjoy intimacy without sex.***
- ***The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, their effectiveness and options available.***
- ***The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage.***
- ***That there are choices in relation to pregnancy, with legally and medically 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) are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex and the importance of 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.***

## 5. RSE programmes of study

- 5.1. The school is free to determine an age-appropriate, developmental curriculum which meets the needs of young people and includes the statutory content outlined in [section 4](#) of this policy.

**All curriculum information is included as recommendations from the PSHE Association Schemes of Learning and the Statutory Guidance from 2020.**

- 5.2. Year 7:

In the Year 7 Scheme of Learning, SRE takes a light touch.

### **Friendship and trust Module**

Different types of relationships, including those within families, friendships, romantic or intimate relationships are considered. Use of internet and relationships are discussed to raise awareness of online grooming.

- 5.3. Year 8:

### **Puberty, Body Image and FGM Module**

#### **Relationships and the Internet Module**

The PSHE curriculum will help pupils manage growth and change as normal parts of growing up, will cover human reproduction, pregnancy, the main changes which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health

the risks and myths associated with female genital mutilation (FGM), its status as a criminal act and strategies to access sources of support for themselves or their peers who they believe may be at risk, or who may have already been subject to FGM

to recognise the portrayal and impact of sex in the media and social media (which might include music videos, advertising and sexual images shared between young people.

that relationships can cause strong feelings and emotions (including sexual attraction)

when the sharing of explicit images may constitute a serious criminal offence.

Year 9:

### **Kids having Kids Module**

by asking the pupils to consider different levels of intimacy and their consequences.

to acknowledge and respect the right not to have intimate relationships until ready.

about readiness for sex and the benefits of delaying sexual activity.

that consent is freely given and that being pressurised, manipulated or coerced to agree to something is not consent; that the seeker of consent is responsible for ensuring that consent has been given and if consent is not given or is withdrawn, that decision should always be respected.

about the law in relation to consent (including the legal age of consent for sexual activity, the legal definition of consent and the responsibility in law for the seeker of consent to ensure that consent has been given).

about basic forms of contraception, including the condom and pill and to develop communication and negotiation skills necessary for contraceptive use in healthy relationships.

about the risks related to unprotected sex, including the consequences of unintended pregnancy and the options available in such circumstances.

5.4. Year 10:

Currently under development

5.5. Year 11:

Currently under development

## 6. Health education subject overview

6.1. The physical health and mental wellbeing curriculum will continue to develop pupils' knowledge on the topics taught at a primary level, in addition to the content outlined in this section.

### **Mental wellbeing**

6.2. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- ***How to talk about their emotions accurately and sensitively, using appropriate vocabulary.***
- ***That happiness is linked to being connected to others.***
- ***How to recognise the early signs of mental wellbeing concerns.***
- ***Common types of mental ill health, e.g. anxiety and depression.***
- ***How to critically evaluate when something they do or are involved in has a positive or negative effect on their own or others' mental health.***

- ***The benefits and importance of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation and voluntary and service-based activities on mental wellbeing and happiness.***

#### **Internet safety and harms**

6.3. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- ***The similarities and differences between the online world and the physical world, including the impact of unhealthy or obsessive comparison with others online, over-reliance on online relationships, the risks related to online gambling, how information is targeted at them and how to be a discerning consumer of information online.***
- ***How to identify harmful behaviours online, including bullying, abuse or harassment, and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours.***

#### **Physical health and fitness**

6.4. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- ***The positive associations between physical activity and promotion of mental wellbeing, including as an approach to combat stress.***
- ***The characteristics and evidence of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, maintaining a healthy weight, including the links between an inactive lifestyle and ill health.***
- ***About the science relating to blood, organ and stem cell donation.***

#### **Healthy eating**

6.5. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- ***How to maintain healthy eating and the links between a poor diet and health risks, including tooth decay and cancer.***

#### **Drugs, alcohol and tobacco**

6.6. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- ***The facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use and serious mental health conditions.***
- ***The law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances.***
- ***The physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood.***

- *The physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency.*
- *Awareness of the dangers of drugs which are prescribed but still present serious health risks.*
- *The facts about the harms from smoking tobacco, the benefits of quitting and how to access the support to do so.*

#### **Health and prevention**

6.7. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- *About personal hygiene, germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread, treatment and prevention of infection, and about antibiotics.*
- *About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including healthy eating and regular check-ups at the dentist.*
- *At Key Stage 4, the pupils will be taught about the benefits of regular self-examination and screening.*
- *The facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination.*
- *The importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and how a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.*

#### **Basic first aid**

6.8. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- *Basic treatments for common injuries.*
- *Life-saving skills, including how to administer CPR.*
- *The purpose of defibrillators and when one might be needed.*
- *This will be covered in every year with the BHF CPR toolkit as part of the PSHE curriculum with a “First Aid Fortnight”*

#### **Changing adolescent body**

6.9. By the end of secondary school, pupils will know:

- *Key facts about puberty, the changing adolescent body and menstrual wellbeing.*
- *The main changes which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health.*

## 7. Health education programmes of study

7.1. The school is free to determine an age-appropriate, developmental curriculum which meets the needs of young people and includes the statutory content outlined in [section 6](#) of this policy.

7.2. Year 7:

### **Exercise and Health module**

the importance of and ways of taking increased responsibility for their own physical health and personal hygiene including, teeth, germs and the purpose and importance of immunisation and vaccination.

the benefits of physical activity and exercise and the importance of sleep.

what constitutes a balanced diet and its benefits (including the risks associated with both obesity and dieting)

the safe use of prescribed and over the counter medicines

### **Emotional intelligence Module**

to recognise their personal strengths and how this affects their self-confidence and self-esteem

to understand that self-esteem can change with personal circumstances, such as those associated with family and friendships and achievements.

the characteristics of mental and emotional health and strategies for managing it.

### **Friendship and Trust Module**

the safe and responsible use of information communication technology (including safe management of own and others' personal data including images)

to establish clear personal boundaries around those aspects of their lives they wish to be private, shared only with specific people, and made public; to understand their right to privacy.

7.3. Year 8:

### **Puberty, Body Image and FGM Module**

how the media portrays young people; to recognise its possible impact on body image and health issues

that identity is affected by a range of factors, including the media and a positive sense of self.

### **Relationships and the internet module**

the features of positive and stable relationships (including trust, mutual respect, honesty, equality) and those of unhealthy relationships (including imbalance of power, coercion, control, exploitation, abuse of any kind)

### **Finance and Risk Module**

about gambling (including online) and its consequences, why people might choose to gamble, and the gambling industry influences their choices and tries to engage them in gambling; how to manage pressure or influence to gamble and access support if worried about themselves or others.

#### 7.4. Year 9:

### **Drugs and Mental Health Module**

the causes and triggers for unhealthy coping strategies, such as self-harm and eating disorders; how to recognise when they or others need help, sources of help and strategies for accessing it.

the importance of, and strategies for, maintaining a balance between work, leisure and exercise.

factual information about legal and illegal substances, including alcohol (including current government recommendations for consumption), volatile substances, new psychoactive substances, tobacco, e-cigarettes, shisha, e-shisha and cannabis

the law relating to the supply, use and misuse of legal and illegal substances

to recognise and strategies to manage different influences (including peer influence) on their decisions about the use of substances, (including clarifying and challenging their own perceptions, values and beliefs)

the personal and social risks and consequences of substance use and misuse, including the benefits of not drinking alcohol (or delaying the age at which to start) and the benefits of not smoking including not harming others with second-hand smoke

how to access local health services and other sources of support such as smoking cessation services or if concerned about own or others' alcohol or substance use.

Year 10:

#### 7.5. Year 11:

Under Review

## 8. Delivery of the curriculum

- 8.1. The majority of the RSE and health education curriculum will be delivered through the **PSHE curriculum**.
- 8.2. Through effective organisation and delivery of the subject, we will ensure that:
  - ***Core knowledge is sectioned into units of a manageable size.***
  - ***The required content is communicated to pupils clearly, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned scheme of work.***
  - ***Teaching includes sufficient and well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to embed new knowledge so that it can be used confidently in real-life situations.***
- 8.3. RSE and health education complement several national curriculum subjects. Where appropriate, the school will look for opportunities to make links between the subjects and integrate teaching.
- 8.4. The RSE and health education curriculum will be delivered by appropriately trained members of staff.
- 8.5. The curriculum will proactively address issues in a timely way in line with current evidence on pupil's physical, emotional and sexual development.
- 8.6. RSE and health education will be delivered in a non-judgemental, age-appropriate, factual and inclusive way that allows pupils to ask questions in a safe environment.
- 8.7. Teaching of the curriculum reflects requirements set out in law, particularly in the Equality Act 2010, so that pupils understand what the law does and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of the decisions they make.
- 8.8. In Key Stage 4 the school will integrate LGBTQ+ content into the RSE curriculum – this content will be taught as part of the overall curriculum, rather than a standalone topic or lesson, and will be included in lessons on a date to be agreed as we do not currently have KS4. LGBTQ+ content will be approached in a sensitive, age-appropriate and factual way that allows pupils to explore the features of stable and healthy same-sex relationships.
- 8.9. All teaching and resources are assessed by the **RSE and health education subject leader** to ensure they are appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils, are sensitive to their religious backgrounds and meet the needs of any SEND, if applicable.
- 8.10. Classes may be taught in gender-segregated groups dependent on the nature of the topic being delivered at the time, and the cultural background of pupils where it is only appropriate to discuss the body in single gender groups.
- 8.11. Throughout every year group, appropriate diagrams, videos, books, games, discussion and practical activities will be used to assist learning.

- 8.12. Inappropriate images, videos, etc. will not be used, and resources will be selected with sensitivity given to the age and cultural background of pupils.
- 8.13. Pupils will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials on the internet when using such to assist with their learning. The prevention measures taken to ensure this are outlined in the school's **E-safety Policy**, and **IT Acceptable Use Agreement**.
- 8.14. Teachers will establish what is appropriate for one-to-one and whole-class settings, and alter their teaching of the programmes accordingly.
- 8.15. Teachers will ensure that pupils' views are listened to and will encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Teachers will answer questions sensitively and honestly.
- 8.16. The curriculum will be designed to focus on boys as much as girls and activities will be planned to ensure both are actively involved, matching their different learning styles.
- 8.17. Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of marriage and healthy relationships when teaching RSE, though sensitivity will always be given as to not stigmatise pupils on the basis of their home circumstances.
- 8.18. Teachers will ensure lesson plans focus on challenging perceived views of pupils based on protected characteristics, through exploration of, and developing mutual respect for, those different to themselves.
- 8.19. In teaching the curriculum, teachers will be aware that pupils may raise topics such as self-harm and suicide. When talking about these topics in lessons, teachers will be aware of the risks of encouraging these behaviours and will avoid any resources or material that appear as instructive rather than preventative.
- 8.20. At all points of delivery of the curriculum, parents will be consulted, and their views will be valued. What will be taught and how, will be planned in conjunction with parents.
- 8.21. The procedures for assessing pupil progress are outlined in [section 15](#) of this policy.

## 9. Curriculum links

- 9.1. The school seeks opportunities to draw links between RSE and health education and other curriculum subjects wherever possible to enhance pupils' learning.

9.2. RSE and health education will be linked to the following subjects:

- ***Citizenship – pupils are provided with the knowledge, skills and understanding to help prepare them to play a full and active part in society, including an understanding of how laws are made and upheld and how to make sensible decisions.***
- ***Science – pupils are taught about the main external parts of the body and changes to the human body as it grows, including puberty.***
- ***ICT and computing – pupils are taught about how they can keep themselves safe online and the different risks that they may face online as they get older.***
- ***PE – pupils can develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities, are physically active for sustained periods of time, engage in competitive sport and lead healthy, active lives.***
- ***PSHE – pupils learn about respect and difference, values and characteristics of individuals.***

## **10. Working with parents**

- 10.1. The school understands that parents' role in the development of their children's understanding about relationships and health is vital.
- 10.2. The school will work closely with parents when planning and delivering the content of the school's RSE and health education curriculum.
- 10.3. When in consultation with parents, the school will provide:
- ***The curriculum content, including what will be taught and when.***
  - ***Examples of the resources the school intends to use to deliver the curriculum.***
  - ***Information about parents' right to withdraw their child from non-statutory elements of RSE and health education.***
- 10.4. Parents will be provided with frequent opportunities to understand and ask questions about the school's approach to RSE and health education.
- 10.5. The school understands that the teaching of some aspects of the curriculum may be of concern to parents.
- 10.6. If parents have concerns regarding RSE and health education, they may submit these via email to [info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk](mailto:info@derbycathedralschool.org.uk), or contact the **school office** to arrange a meeting with the **Headteacher** on **01332 325710**
- 10.7. Parents will be regularly consulted on the curriculum content, through dissemination on our website and parental letters, and the curriculum will be planned in conjunction with parents' views.

## 11. Working with external agencies

- 11.1. Working with external agencies can enhance our delivery of RSE and health education, and brings in specialist knowledge and different ways of engaging pupils.
- 11.2. External experts may be invited to assist from time-to-time with the delivery of the RSE and health education curriculum but will be expected to comply with the provisions of this policy.
- 11.3. The school will check the visitor/visiting organisation's credentials of all external agencies.
- 11.4. The school will ensure the teaching delivered by the external experts fits with the planned curriculum and provisions of this policy.
- 11.5. The school will discuss with the visitor the details of how they intend to deliver their sessions and ensure the content is age-appropriate and accessible for all pupils.
- 11.6. The school will request copies of the materials and lesson plans the visitor will use, to ensure it meets the full range of pupils' needs.
- 11.7. The school and the visitor will agree on how confidentiality will work in any lesson and that the visitor understands how safeguarding reports must be dealt with in line with the school's **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**.
- 11.8. The school will use visitors to enhance teaching by an appropriate member of teaching staff, not to replace teaching by those staff.

## 12. Withdrawal from lessons

- 12.1. Parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.
- 12.2. Parents **do not** have a right to withdraw their child from the relationships or health elements of the programmes.
- 12.3. Requests to withdraw a child from sex education will be made **in writing** to the Headteacher.
- 12.4. Before granting a withdrawal request, the headteacher will discuss the request with the parents and, as appropriate, the child, to ensure their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum.
- 12.5. The Headteacher will inform parents of the benefits of their child receiving RSE and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have.
- 12.6. All discussions with parents will be documented. These records will be kept securely in **the school office** in line with the school's protocol.

- 12.7. Following discussions with parents, the school will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive RSE rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements to provide the child with RSE.
- 12.8. Pupils who are withdrawn from RSE will receive appropriate, purposeful education during the full period of withdrawal.
- 12.9.
- 12.10. For requests concerning the withdrawal of a pupil with SEND, the headteacher may take the pupils' specific needs into account when making their decision.

### **13. Equality and accessibility**

- 13.1. The school will comply with the relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and will ensure the curriculum does not discriminate against pupils because of their:
- ***Age***
  - ***Sex***
  - ***Race***
  - ***Disability***
  - ***Religion or belief***
  - ***Gender reassignment***
  - ***Pregnancy or maternity***
  - ***Marriage or civil partnership***
  - ***Sexual orientation***
- 13.2. The school will consider the backgrounds, gender, age range and needs of its pupils and determine whether it is necessary to put in place additional support for pupils with the above protected characteristics.
- 13.3. The school understands that pupils with SEND are entitled to learn about RSE and health education, and the curriculum will be designed to be inclusive of all pupils.
- 13.4. The school is aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their SEND – teachers will understand that they may need to liaise with the **SENCO** and be more explicit and adapt their planning or work to appropriately deliver the curriculum to pupils with SEND.
- 13.5. Where there is a need to tailor content and teaching to meet the needs of pupils at different developmental stages, the school will ensure the teaching remains sensitive, age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate and is delivered with reference to the law.

- 13.6. The school will take steps to foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between boys and girls, and provide an environment which challenges perceived limits on pupils based on their gender or any other characteristic.
- 13.7. The school will be actively aware of everyday issues such as sexism, misogyny, homophobia and gender stereotypes and take positive action to build a culture within which these are not tolerated. Any occurrences of such issues will be identified and tackled promptly.
- 13.8. The school will make clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Any reports of sexual violence or sexual harassment will be handled in accordance with the school's **Behaviour Policy**.

## **14. Safeguarding and confidentiality**

- 14.1. All pupils will be taught about keeping themselves safe, including online, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- 14.2. Confidentiality within the classroom is an important component of RSE and health education, and teachers are expected to respect the confidentiality of their pupils as far as is possible, in compliance with the school's **protocol**.
- 14.3. Teachers will, however, understand that some aspects of RSE may lead to a pupil raising a safeguarding concern, e.g. disclosing that they are being abused, and that if a disclosure is made, the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** will be alerted immediately.
- 14.4. Pupils will be made aware of how to raise their concerns or make a report, and how their report will be handled – this includes the process for when they have a concern about a peer.

## **15. Assessment**

- 15.1. The school has the same high expectations of the quality of pupils' work in RSE and health education as for other curriculum areas.
- 15.2. Lessons are planned to provide suitable challenge to pupils of all abilities.
- 15.3. Assessments are used to identify where pupils need extra support or intervention.
- 15.4. There are no formal examinations for RSE and health education; however, to assess pupil outcomes, the school will capture progress in the following ways:
  - ***Tests***
  - ***Written assignments***
  - ***Self-evaluations***
  - ***Targeted questioning***

## 16. Staff training

- 16.1. Training will be provided by the **RSE and health education subject leader** to the relevant members of staff as required, to ensure they are up-to-date with the RSE and health education curriculum.
- 16.2. Training will also be scheduled around any updated guidance on the curriculum and any new developments, such as “sexting”, which may need to be addressed in relation to the curriculum.
- 16.3. The school will ensure teachers receive training on the Social Exclusion Report on Teenage Pregnancy, and the role of an effective RSE curriculum in reducing the number of teenage conceptions.
- 16.4. Appropriately trained staff will be able to give pupils information on where and how to obtain confidential advice, counselling and treatment, as well as guidance on emergency contraception and their effectiveness.

## 17. Monitoring quality

- 17.1. The **RSE and health education subject leader** is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning for the subject.
- 17.2. The **RSE and health education subject leader** will conduct subject assessments throughout the academic year, which will include a mixture of the following:
  - *Self-evaluations*
  - *Lesson observations*
  - *Topic feedback forms*
  - *Learning walks*
  - *Work scrutiny*
  - *Lesson planning scrutiny*
- 17.3. The **RSE and health education subject leader** will create **annual** subject reports for the **headteacher** and **governing board** to report on the quality of the subjects.
- 17.4. The **RSE and health education subject leader** will work regularly and consistently with the **Headteacher** and **RSE link governor**, e.g. through **monthly** review meetings, to evaluate the effectiveness of the subjects and implement any changes.

## 18. Monitoring and review

- 18.1. This policy will be reviewed by the **Headteacher** in conjunction with the **RSE and health education subject leader** on an **annual** basis.

- 18.2. Any changes needed to the policy, including changes to the programmes, will be implemented by the **Headteacher**.
- 18.3. Any changes to the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff and, where necessary, parents and pupils, involved in the RSE and health education curriculum.
- 18.4. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **October 2020**.



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## Letter to Parents Regarding RSE and health education

**RE: RSE and health education at Derby Cathedral School**

Dear Parent / Carer

Government guidelines outline that, from the age of 11, it is compulsory for all schools to provide an RSE and health education curriculum.

At our school, we believe that it is important to provide our pupils with a thorough and balanced curriculum, including age-appropriate information about sex and relationships.

The details of what will be taught to the various year groups is detailed in the school's **RSE and Health Education Policy**, which can be accessed on our school website [www.derbycatherdalschool.org](http://www.derbycatherdalschool.org) or in hard copy via our main school reception.

Though schools must provide RSE and health education for pupils from the age of 11, up until the age of 19, only aspects of the science national curriculum are compulsory for pupils to learn. Therefore, as parents, you are entitled to request that your child be removed from sex education lessons up to and until three terms before they turn 16-years-old. After that point, if your child wishes to receive sex education, the school will make arrangements to provide them with sex education during one of those terms.

Requests for withdrawal should be submitted in writing to myself, the Headteacher, who will discuss this with you and your child's teacher, and determine an appropriate substitute for these lessons. In most instances, children will be provided with self-directed reading or exercises which they can complete under the supervision of a trainee teacher.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's participation in these lessons, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's class teacher to discuss these.

Yours sincerely,

G. R. Inglis

Headteacher