

Seaford Head School

Achieving Excellence Together



Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

FGB Approved: November 2024
Next Review: November 2026

"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". Secretary of State, 2019

Vision for PSHE and RSHE

At Seaford Head School, we recognise the importance of high-quality Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) which supports young people to lead safe and healthy lives into adulthood. RSHE is an entitlement for all young people. We believe that its delivery should be inclusive, taking into account young people's age, gender, learning needs, culture, family circumstances and sexuality. RSHE at Seaford Head School will seek to enable young people to gain information, explore attitudes, values and have space for reflection. At Seaford Head School, we firmly believe that RSHE is most effective when provided in a wider context of social and emotional development as part of the PSHE programme.

The RSHE Policy serves to:

- Establish the intent and aims of the RSHE curriculum.
- Outline the approach to teaching of RSHE.
- Clarify intended outcomes of RSHE provision for pupils.
- Reflect the ethos and vision of the school.
- Establish clear guidance and a teaching framework for teachers. This will help ensure consistency of best practice, evidence-based teaching and learning and enable clarification of issues that can be explored within RSHE lessons to guide and empower teachers.
- Share the planned RSHE programme and approach with parents, carers and the wider school community.
- Provide external contributors to the RSHE curriculum with knowledge and understanding of the vision, aims, agreed approaches and values of the RSHE curriculum, including the boundaries for their work and process for managing safeguarding disclosures.
- Ensure continuity and progression of learning by partner schools when curriculum planning.

RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION, SEX EDUCATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION (RSHE) POLICY

Policy context and rationale

This relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) policy covers the Seaford Head School approach to teaching RSHE as part of our PSHE curriculum. This policy has been developed with the whole school community including pupils, parents/carers, staff and school governors. Pupil consultation has ensured that the needs of all pupils can be met through the delivery of an age and stage appropriate curriculum that addresses relevant issues, informed by analysis of public health data and pupil priorities. Consultation methods included a whole student PSHE survey, the results of which have been used to inform the creation of the school's PSHE and RSHE curriculum including this policy where appropriate.

Policy availability

Stakeholders can be informed about the policy by accessing a copy from the school website or contacting the Head of PSHE at the school. Should a hard copy of the document be required, the school will be happy to provide this upon request and will also work with any stakeholders that require the policy in an alternative format to meet their individual needs, ensuring equitable accessibility for all. The policy can be obtained in an alternative format by contacting our reception team.

Policy values, aims and objectives

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.

These subjects represent a huge opportunity to help our children and young people develop. The knowledge and attributes gained will support their own, and others', wellbeing and attainment and help young people to become successful and happy adults who make a meaningful contribution to society.

-Secretary of State Foreword

Our school's ethos of Achieving Excellence together is supported by our values that are:

- To ensure every child achieves the very best that they can.
- To inspire a love of learning and curiosity about the world in a safe and stimulating environment.
- To encourage resilience, perseverance, motivation and ambition among the whole school community.
- To produce confident citizens with high self-esteem, problem solving and decision-making skills, able to embrace twenty-first century life.
- To promote all key skills and specifically reading, as a crucial skill and pleasurable activity.
- To work as a cohesive community, supporting and enriching the life of other people in the world.
- To participate fully, with a sense of moral and social responsibility, as citizens of this country and the world.
- To promote democracy, mutual respect and the rule of law.
- To be tolerant of different faiths, beliefs and sexual orientation.
- To promote dignity, honesty, integrity and conscientiousness in all we do.

PSHE and RSHE are underpinned by a clear set of embedded values and principles that complement the school ethos and permeate through the teaching practice, resources and classroom management of RSHE lessons. RSHE is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health in an age and stage appropriate manner. RSHE equips children and young people with accurate information, positive values and the skills to enjoy healthy, safe and positive relationships, to celebrate their sexuality and to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing both now and in the future. We recognise the importance of RSHE in preparing children and young people to live safe, fulfilled and healthy lives. The overarching objective of RSHE is to support children and young people through a journey of physical, emotional and moral development via the teaching of essential knowledge, skills and values within the framework of the law and provisions of the Equality Act, 2010.

Effective RSHE can make a significant contribution to the development of personal skills needed by pupils to establish and maintain relationships. RSHE will ensure children and young people are encouraged to understand the importance of stable, loving relationships, respect, love, and care. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

RSHE will be approached through evidence-based, best practice principles to ensure the highest impact on improving pupil health, wellbeing, safeguarding and lifelong outcomes. The following principles are based on research evidence, supported by a wide range of leading organisations including the NSPCC, Barnardo's, The Children's Society and education unions. They are also supported by a number of MPs and Lords.

Principles of effective RSHE at Seaford Head School:

- Is an identifiable part of our school curriculum, which has planned, timetabled lessons across all the Key Stages imbedded in PSHE.
- Is taught by staff regularly trained in RSHE (with expert visitors invited in to enhance and supplement the programme, where appropriate).
- Works in partnership with parents and carers, informing them about what their children will be learning and how they can contribute at home.
- Delivers lessons where pupils feel safe and encourages participation by using a variety of teaching approaches with opportunities to develop critical thinking and relationship skills.
- Is based on reliable sources of information, including about the law and legal rights, and distinguishes between fact and opinion.
- Promotes safe, equal, caring and enjoyable relationships and discusses real-life issues appropriate to the age and stage of pupils, including friendships, families, consent, relationship abuse, sexual exploitation and safe relationships online.
- Gives a positive view of human sexuality with honest and medically accurate information so that pupils can learn about their bodies and sexual and reproductive health in ways that are appropriate to their age and maturity.
- Gives pupils opportunities to reflect on their values and influences (such as from peers, media, faith and culture) that may shape their attitudes to relationships and sex and nurture respect for different views.
- Includes learning about how to get help and treatment from sources such as the School Health Service and other health and advice services, including reliable information online.
- Fosters gender equality and LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans) equality and challenges all forms of discrimination in RSHE lessons and in everyday school life.
- Meets the needs of all pupils with their diverse experiences including those with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Seeks pupils' views about RSHE so that teaching can be made relevant to their real lives and assessed and adapted as their needs change.

Entitlement and equality of opportunity

All children are entitled to access a broad and balanced curriculum delivered in an age and stage appropriate manner. Teachers will include a range of teaching styles and groupings to allow all children to make progress. Every child will be given opportunity to develop their skills independently and in groups, enhancing their own confidence and self-esteem.

We actively celebrate the diversity of our pupils, their families and the wider whole school community. RSHE will always be taught in a non-judgemental, non-biased and fully inclusive manner through clear, impartial, scientific information as well as covering the law to ensure all pupils have equal access to our RSHE curriculum. We do not use RSHE as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation over another.

Through consultation, continual assessment and regular reviews of the curriculum we ensure that we continually recognise and respect pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity, personal circumstances (including gender identity, faith or culture and that of their family, friends and the wider whole-school community) in accordance with the school's inclusion policy.

Teaching and learning

The RSHE programme will be led by the Head of PSHE, taught by subject teachers and supported by additional delivery by Tutors. All staff involved in the delivery of RSHE have received support or training to ensure that pupils receive clear and consistent approaches to RSHE throughout their time at Seaford Head School. Whole staff and individual training needs will be identified through the school's self-evaluation process and staff appraisal.

On occasion external visitors, experts and agencies may be invited to contribute to the delivery of RSHE to enhance delivery of these subjects, bringing in specialist knowledge and different ways of engaging with children and young people. When this happens, our school will:

- Check the visitor or visiting organisation's credentials.
- Ensure the teaching delivered by the visitor fits with our planned programme and our published policy.
- Discuss the details of how the visitor will deliver their sessions and ensure that the content is age-appropriate and accessible for the pupils.
- Ask to see in advance the materials visitors will use as well as a lesson plan so that collectively we can ensure it meets the full range of pupils' needs (e.g. special educational needs).
- Agree how confidentiality will work in any lesson and that the visitor understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with our school's policy.
- Arrange for the visitor to be supervised/supported by a member of school staff at all times.
- Monitor and evaluate the visitor input to inform future planning.

RSHE will be taught through a range of teaching methodologies, including storytelling, drama, discussions, individual private reflection, quizzes and fact finding, value spectrums, debating, independent research and artistic presentations etc. This wide range of teaching strategies promotes engagement by all pupils, irrespective of preferred learning styles.

Curriculum

The majority of elements of the RSHE curriculum are a statutory requirement to teach to meet the latest government RSHE guidance and The Equalities Act, 2010. RSHE will be taught through a 'spiral curriculum'. This approach means that pupils will gain knowledge, develop values and acquire skills gradually by re-visiting core themes to build on prior learning. RSHE will support the school's commitment to safeguard pupils

through an age-appropriate curriculum that prepares them to live safely in the modern world.

Our intended RSHE curriculum is detailed within the PSHE curriculum found on the school website and includes the statutory themes shown below. It may vary in response to emerging issues and to reflect the rapidly changing world in which our pupils are living and learning. If this is the case, parent/carers will be provided with appropriate notice before the amended programme is delivered. Where possible the curriculum will be complemented by themed assemblies, topic days and cross curricular links.

Secondary

<i>Relationships Education</i>	<i>Families Respectful relationships including friendships Online and media Being safe</i>
<i>Sex Education</i>	<i>Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health</i>
<i>Health Education</i>	<i>Mental wellbeing Internet safety and harms Physical health and fitness Healthy eating Drugs, alcohol and tobacco Health and prevention Basic first aid Changing adolescent body</i>

Assessment

Pupils' learning will be assessed at the end of every topic to ensure that pupils are making sufficient progress to build on prior teaching and learning and that teaching strategies and resources remain relevant and effective. Assessment activities will be implicit, forming part of a normal teaching activity to ensure that pupils do not feel under pressure and will include self-assessment tasks that will confirm pupils' understanding of the topics. The evaluation of teaching and learning assessments will be shared with pupils and parents as appropriate.

The quality of RSHE teaching and learning will be monitored through RSHE learning walks, team teaching and informal drop-ins conducted by subject leads and/or members of the senior leadership team. The observations and findings of which will be used to identify and inform future staff training needs.

Responding to pupils' questions

There will always be sensitive and controversial issues within the subjects of RSHE. These may be a matter of age and stage appropriateness or contrasting personal beliefs including those originating from faith perspectives and culture. We believe that children are best educated and protected from harm when they are provided

with a safe and supportive space to discuss issues openly within the framework of a class working agreement. At the end of every lesson, pupils will be provided with an opportunity to ask questions in an open setting and will also be provided with an opportunity to raise anonymous questions through the use of a 'health' email account. Teachers will answer questions as fully as they feel age and stage appropriate based on the level of knowledge demonstrated by pupils during the lesson. Teachers may delay answering a pupil's question if they need time to consult with a colleague or the school leadership team to construct an appropriate answer. Teachers can refuse to answer a question that they feel is inappropriate and will never answer personal questions about their own body, personal circumstances or lifestyle choices. If a teacher does not answer a question, the pupil will have the reasons clearly explained and the teacher will work with the pupil to identify suitable sources of information where they can obtain an answer to their question. This may include encouraging the pupil to ask a parent/carer or trusted adult at home.

Confidentiality, signposting and handling disclosures

The school's responsibility to safeguard pupils through a curriculum that prepares them to live safely in the modern world will remain central to our curriculum content, teaching methodologies and supporting resources.

At the beginning of PSHE and RSHE teaching the class will discuss and create a 'working agreement'. Confidentiality will be included within this agreement so pupils are clear of the limits of confidentiality that can be guaranteed by a teacher.

Distancing techniques such as the use of characters within RSHE avoids pupils feeling underpressure to participate or disclose information beyond that which is appropriate or feels comfortable. This strategy makes RSHE more accessible to all pupils including those who may have experienced unhealthy relationships and/or abuse.

Teachers will signpost pupils to information relevant to the topic being taught to ensure safe sources of information, advice and guidance are provided. Teachers will also work closely with the school's pastoral system to advise on topic coverage so that the school can be responsive to pupil's pastoral needs and safeguarding arrangements can be actioned efficiently if required.

Teachers will conduct RSHE lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously, and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. They will immediately inform the named person for child protection issues about their concerns. The designated safeguarding lead will then deal with the matter in line with our school's safeguarding policy.

Involving parents and carers

We believe that parents and carers are the primary educators of their children in PSHE and RSHE and that RSHE is most effective when it is collaboration between school and home. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with parents and carers of children and young people at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

The school will provide support to parents and carers through an annual workshop which provides a valuable opportunity to develop awareness of emerging topics, review the resources being used as well as consider ways to build on the learning at home, fostering strong channels of communication between parents/carers and their children. The school also operates an open-door policy enabling parents to discuss PSHE at relevant times throughout the school year.

The vast majority of RSHE is compulsory. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education. Parents and carers are only able to request that their child is excused from Sex Education, taught outside of the national curriculum for science. If a parent wishes their child to be excused from some or all of the non-statutory Sex Education, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, making clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The Headteacher will outline to parents/carers the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child. This could include any social and emotional effects of being excluded as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes rather than what was directly said by the teacher (although detrimental effects may be mitigated if the parents/carers propose to deliver sex education to their child at home instead). Once a decision has been made, parents/carers must inform the school in writing stating their reasons as to why they would like their child withdrawn.

Once these discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, our school will respect a parent/carers' request to have their child excused from non-statutory sex education 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 should make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms. The school will document this process.

This process is the same for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). However, there may be exceptional circumstances where the Headteacher may want to take a pupil's specific needs arising from their SEND into account when making this decision. If a pupil is excused from sex education, the school will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

[Links to other school policies and curriculum](#)

This policy complements the following policies:

- Anti-bullying
- E-safety
- Equality
- Inclusion
- PSHE
- Safeguarding
- Teaching and learning

[Legislative requirements](#)

The PSHE and RSHE Policy aims to reflect the vision and values of our school. It enables the desired outcomes for teachers, parents/carers, pupils and the wider community of Seaford and surrounding areas. The policy is compliant with relevant legislation and guidance. These include, but are not limited to:

- [Education Act, 2002](#)
- [Education and Inspections Act, 2006](#)
- [Academies Act, 2010](#)
- [Equalities Act 2010 and schools](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 years](#)

The government has committed to reviewing the new statutory guidance regularly. This policy will be reviewed at least every two years to ensure that the policy continues to meet the needs of the school and the community it serves, ensures ongoing consistency with the school vision and ethos and that it remains in line with current DfE advice and guidance. The RSHE curriculum will be reviewed separately and on a more regular basis to reflect pupil needs, development and ensure progression of learning.

The local governing body monitors the impact of RSHE on an annual basis. The governors give serious consideration to any comments, consultation and evidence of impact.

Consultation with pupils will be conducted on a regular basis to support with reviewing the curriculum to ensure it remains responsive to emerging needs and the policy updated accordingly.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or sooner if the RSHE curriculum is amended, for example in response to emerging themes, changing pupil needs or introduction of new legislation and guidance. The next review date for this policy is currently set for November 2026.

School policy links

The RSHE policy forms part of a set of policies promoted by East Sussex County Council. These policies run alongside this policy to support and keep young people safe. Examples of relevant policies may include, but are not limited to:

- Safeguarding
- Equality and Diversity
- Behaviour
- Religious Education

School curriculum links

PSHE and RSHE are closely linked to all other curriculum subjects and initiatives. Examples of linked curriculum may include, but are not limited to:

- British Values
- SMSC
- Science
- Ethics
- Citizenship
- Physical Education
- ICT