



Orsett Heath Academy  
Relationships, Sex and Health Education  
Policy  
May 2021

**Key Contact Personnel**

Nominated Member of Leadership Staff Responsible: Miss S Rawson

**Date written:** May 2021

**Date of next review:** May 2022

**This policy will be reviewed at least annually, and following any concerns and / or updates to national / local guidance or procedures**

## **1) Introduction and Context**

At Orsett Heath Academy, we understand the importance of educating pupils about relationships, sex 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.

## **2) Links with other school policies and practices:**

This policy links with several school policies, practices and action plans including:

- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- PSHE Policy
- SMSC and British Values Policy

## **3) Legislation**

Statutory guidance that informs the schools policy include:

- Equality Act 2010
- DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020
- DfE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2019
- DfE National Curriculum in England 2015
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
- Children and Social Work Act 2017

## **4) Roles and Responsibilities**

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- Ensuring all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes
- Ensure 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- Providing clear information to parents on the subject content and the right to request that their child is withdrawn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 ensure the school can fulfil its legal obligations

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy
- Ensuring all staff are suitably trained to deliver the subjects
- Ensuring parents 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

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 that 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

The DSL is responsible for:

- Offering advice and consultation for safeguarding-related subjects in the RSE and Health Education curriculum.
- Promoting knowledge and awareness of safeguarding issues amongst staff.
- Being an appropriate point of contact for staff who have concerns about the welfare of a child that have arisen through the teaching of RSE and Health Education.

Subject teachers are responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with, and promoting, this policy.
- Delivering RSE and Health Education in a sensitive and high-quality way, that is 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 DSL.
- 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.

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

## **5) Definitions**

For the purpose of this policy, "Relationships and Sex Education" (RSE) 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.

"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.

## **6) Approach at Orsett Heath Academy**

All schools providing secondary education are required to deliver statutory RSE and Health Education.

The RSE and Health Education curriculum will be developed in consultation with teachers, pupils and parents, and in accordance with DfE recommendations.

The majority of the RSE and Health Education curriculum will be delivered through PSHE curriculum time, with statutory elements also taught via the Science curriculum, creating an integrated programme.

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.

The school will consider the religious background of all pupils when planning teaching, to ensure all topics included are appropriately handled.

## **7) Curriculum Content**

The curriculum has been developed in line with the DfE's 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' guidance, and covers all topics as outlined in this guidance (*Please see Appendix 1 for a detailed list of topics in the curriculum content*).

All aspects of these teachings will be taught as a spiral programme which includes the recurrence of 3 core themes and individual topics as a student progresses through Orsett Heath Academy. With each delivery of the theme or topic, the level of demand increases and learning is progressively deepened.

The three core themes taught each year are:

- Health and wellbeing – With specific links to the DfE "Health Education" curriculum content
- Relationships and sex – With specific links to the DfE "Relationships and Sex Education" curriculum content
- Living in the wider world – With specific links to the Gatsby Benchmarks and CEIAG

The table below highlights the half-term in which these themes will be taught each year, within the PSHE curriculum time. It also outlines the themes and individual topics to be covered in each year group.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
	Health & Wellbeing	Living in the Wider World	Relationships & Sex	Health & Wellbeing	Relationships & Sex	Living in the Wider World
Year 7	<p>Transition and safety</p> <p>Transition to secondary school and personal safety in and outside school, including first aid</p>	<p>Developing skills and aspirations</p> <p>Careers, teamwork and enterprise skills, and raising aspirations</p>	<p>Diversity</p> <p>Diversity, prejudice, and bullying</p>	<p>Health and puberty</p> <p>Healthy routines, influences on health, puberty, unwanted contact, and FGM</p>	<p>Building relationships</p> <p>Self-worth, romance and friendships (including online) and relationship boundaries</p>	<p>Financial decision making</p> <p>Saving, borrowing, budgeting and making financial choices</p>
Year 8	<p>Drugs and alcohol</p> <p>Alcohol and drug misuse and pressures relating to drug use</p>	<p>Community and careers</p> <p>Equality of opportunity in careers and life choices, and different types and patterns of work</p>	<p>Discrimination</p> <p>Discrimination in all its forms, including: racism, religious discrimination, disability, discrimination, sexism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia</p>	<p>Emotional wellbeing</p> <p>Mental health and emotional wellbeing, including body image and coping strategies</p>	<p>Identity and relationships</p> <p>Gender identity, sexual orientation, consent, 'sexting', and an introduction to contraception</p>	<p>Digital literacy</p> <p>Online safety, digital literacy, media reliability, and gambling hooks</p>
Year 9	<p>Peer influence, substance use and gangs</p> <p>Healthy and unhealthy friendships, assertiveness, substance misuse, and gang exploitation</p>	<p>Setting goals</p> <p>Learning strengths, career options and goal setting as part of the GCSE options process</p>	<p>Respectful relationships</p> <p>Families and parenting, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, and relationship changes</p>	<p>Healthy lifestyle</p> <p>Diet, exercise, lifestyle balance and healthy choices, and first aid</p>	<p>Intimate relationships</p> <p>Relationships and sex education including consent, contraception, the risks of STIs, and attitudes to pornography</p>	<p>Employability skills</p> <p>Employability and online presence</p>
Year 10	<p>Mental health</p> <p>Mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding health, including during periods of transition or change</p>	<p>Financial decision making</p> <p>The impact of financial decisions, debt, gambling and the impact of advertising on financial choices</p>	<p>Healthy relationships</p> <p>Relationships and sex expectations, myths, pleasure and challenges, including the impact of the media and pornography</p>	<p>Exploring influence</p> <p>The influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media</p>	<p>Addressing extremism and radicalisation</p> <p>Communities, belonging and challenging extremism</p>	<p>Work experience</p> <p>Preparation for and evaluated of readiness for work</p>
Year 11	<p>Building for the future</p> <p>Self-efficacy, stress management, and future opportunities</p>	<p>Next steps</p> <p>Application processes, and skills for further education, employment and career progression</p>	<p>Communication in relationships</p> <p>Personal values, assertive communication (including in relation to contraception and sexual health), relationship challenges and abuse</p>	<p>Independence</p> <p>Responsible health choices, and safety in independent contexts</p>	<p>Families</p> <p>Different families and parental responsibilities, pregnancy, marriage and forced marriage and changing relationships</p>	

## 8) Delivery of the Curriculum

- The majority of the RSE and Health Education curriculum will be delivered through the PSHE curriculum.
- 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.
- 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.
- The RSE and Health Education curriculum will be delivered by appropriately trained members of staff.
- The curriculum will proactively address issues in a timely way in line with current evidence on pupil's physical, emotional and sexual development.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. LGBTQ+ content will be approached in a sensitive, age-appropriate and factual way that allows pupils to explore gender identity and the features of stable and healthy same-sex relationships.
- 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.
- Throughout every year group, appropriate diagrams, videos, books, games, discussion and practical activities will be used to assist learning.
- Inappropriate images, videos etc. will not be used, and resources will be selected with sensitivity given to the age and cultural background of pupils.
- 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 Online Policy, and Acceptable Terms of Use Agreement.
- Teachers will establish what is appropriate for one-to-one and whole-class settings, and alter their teaching of the programmes accordingly.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## 9) Curriculum links

- The school seeks opportunities to draw links between RSE and Health Education and other curriculum subjects wherever possible to enhance pupils' learning.
- RSE and Health Education will be linked to the following subjects:
  - **SMSC (Tutor Time)** – 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

- The school understands that the parents' role in the development of their children's understanding about relationships and health is vital.
- The school will work closely with parents when planning and delivering the content of the school's RSE and health education curriculum.
- 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.

- Parents will be provided with frequent opportunities to understand and ask questions about the school's approach to RSE and Health Education.
- The school understands that the teaching of some aspects of the curriculum may be of concern to parents.
- If parents have concerns regarding RSE and Health Education, they may submit these via the school office email, or contact the school office to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher.
- Parents will be regularly consulted on the curriculum content, through meetings and letters, and the curriculum will be planned in conjunction with parents' views.

### **11) Working with External Agencies**

- Working with external agencies can enhance our delivery of RSE and Health Education, and brings in specialist knowledge and different ways of engaging pupils.
- 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.
- The school will check the visitor/visiting organisation's credentials of all external agencies.
- The school will ensure the teaching delivered by the external experts fits with the planned curriculum and provisions of this policy.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Safeguarding Policy.
- 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**

- Parents have the right to request that their child is 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 the relationships or health elements of the programmes.
- Requests to withdraw a child from sex education will be made in writing to the Headteacher, using the request form in Appendix 3.
- 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.
- The Headteacher will inform parents of the benefits of their child receiving RSE and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have.
- All discussions with parents will be documented. These records will be kept securely in the school office.

- 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.
- Pupils who are withdrawn from RSE will receive appropriate, purposeful education during the full period of withdrawal.
- 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**

- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Harmful Sexual Behaviour Policy.

- Inclusive teaching will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice – including homophobia – and promote understanding and respect

#### **14) Safeguarding and Confidentiality**

- All pupils will be taught about keeping themselves safe, including online, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- To meet DfE best practice advice, the DSL will be involved in the formulation of safeguarding-related areas of the curriculum, as the knowledge and resources may help to address safeguarding issues more appropriately and effectively.
- When teaching issues that are particularly sensitive for pupils of all ages, e.g. self-harm or suicide, teachers will be made aware of the risks of inadvertently encouraging, or providing instructions to, pupils. Teaching of these subjects will always prioritise preventing self-harm or suicide as a central goal.
- 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.
- 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 DSL will be alerted immediately.
- 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) Creating a Safe Learning Environment**

We will create a safe and supportive learning environment by establishing clear 'ground rules' and confidentiality policies at the beginning of the academic year.

There will be a consistent first lesson of the year approach with all student to ensure that this is understood by all. There is a cohesive approach to involve students in the important elements of creating this.

Further to this, interactive distancing learning methods that support participating and encourage reflection are promoted including paired work, small group work, class discussion, questioning, drama and distancing techniques e.g. scenarios, fiction, TV, DVDs.

Due to the nature of the PSHE and RSE education, pupils learning may result in them seeking advice or support on a specific personal issue. Teachers cannot offer complete confidentiality; it is important for everyone's safety that teachers and pupils are clear about what can and cannot be kept confidential. It is also very important for external contributors, including school nurses, to be clear about these rules.

In the event of a disclosure, teachers will consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and, in her absence, their deputy. Visitors and external agencies which support the delivery of topics will also be required to follow in line with our school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

All lessons will promote the needs and interests of all pupils, irrespective of gender, culture, ability or personal circumstance. Teaching will also take into account the full cultural backgrounds of all children to ensure that all can fully access SMSC and British Values education provision.

### **16) Assessment**

As with any learning process, assessment of students' PSHE and RSE development is important. It provides information which indicates students' progress and achievement and informs the development of the programme.

Students do not pass or fail within these areas but have the opportunity to reflect on their own learning and personal experiences and set goals and agree strategies to reach them. This process of assessment has a positive impact on student's self-awareness and self-esteem.

### **17) Quality Assurance**

PSHE and RSE are monitored through various avenues, including student's questionnaires and evaluations, and regular meetings of staff to monitor and evaluate the programme and share good practice.

Further to this;

- Teachers will critically reflect on their work in delivering all sessions through self-evaluation
- Pupils will have opportunities to review and reflect on their learning during lessons and at the end of topics
- Student voice will be influential in adapting and amending planned learning activities and content
- Each aspect of provision will have individual monitoring and evaluation techniques to ensure quality assurance
- Lesson observations, learning walks and work scrutiny will also be completed in line with the whole school's Quality Assurance policy

### **18) Staff Training**

Training will be provided by the RSE and Health Education subject leader to the relevant members of staff on a termly basis to ensure they are up-to-date with the RSE and Health Education curriculum.

Training will also be scheduled around any updated guidance on the curriculum and any new development, such as "sexting", which may need to be addressed in relation to the curriculum.

### **19) Monitoring and Review**

This RSHE policy will be reviewed by the Head of School every year. At each review, the policy will be approved by the Head of School.

Any changes needed to the policy, including changes to the programmes, will be implemented by the Head of School

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.

## **Appendix 1 – DfE Curriculum Content**

### Relationships and Sex Education

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

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.
- 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

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

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

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

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.

### Health Education

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

### Mental wellbeing

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

- 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

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

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

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

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.
- 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

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.

## Changing adolescent body

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.

## **Appendix 2 – Parent Consultation Letter**

### **Letter to Parents Regarding RSE and health education**

Dear Parents and Carers,

#### **RE: RSE and health education at Orsett Heath Academy**

As part of your child's education at Orsett Heath Academy, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

Government guidelines outline that, from the age of 11, it is compulsory for all schools to provide an RSE and health education curriculum. I am writing to let you know that, over the Summer Term, your child's class will be taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of our PSHE 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 throughout your child's time at Orsett Heath is detailed in the school's RSE and Health Education Policy, which can be accessed on our school website, or in hard copy via our school office.

#### The Right of Withdrawal

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.

Parents will not be able to withdraw their child from any aspect of the Relationships Education or Health Education.

Requests for withdrawal should be submitted in writing to myself, the Head of School, 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 supervision.

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.

## Parent Feedback and Involvement

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents/carers and it is for this reason we would like to establish your views on the relationships and sex education programme. We invite all parents to complete the survey at the below web address to share all ideas, views and questions.

This consultation and feedback will close on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

At the beginning of the Summer Term, we will also hold an optional virtual parent information meeting where you can find out more about what your child will learn, view the materials and resources being used in lessons and discover how you can best support your child to discuss these topics at home. If you would like to show your interest in attending this parent information meeting, there is an opportunity to do so at the end of the above survey. We will then be in contact following the Easter holidays with arrangements and further details.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Rawson

Head of School

Appendix 2 – Withdrawal Form

**FORM FOR PARENTS/CARERS TO WITHDRAW CHILDREN FROM THE SEX  
EDUCATION COMPONENTS OF THE RSE CURRICULUM**

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS</b>			
<b>Name of Child</b>		<b>Class</b>	
<b>Name of Parent</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>REASON (S) FOR WITHDRAWING FROM SEX EDUCATION WITHIN RELATIONSHIPS &amp; SEX EDUCATION</b>			
<b>ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE THE SCHOOL TO CONSIDER</b>			

<b>Parent Signature</b>	

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL: AGREED ACTIONS FROM DISCUSSION WITH PARENTS</b>