



Ackworth School

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

This policy informs practice in the Senior School only, including the Sixth Form. See also the Curriculum Policy – Coram House. Please read this policy in conjunction with the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education Policy.

Policy Development

This policy has been developed in line with the statutory guidance Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, which replaces the Sex and Relationship Education guidance (2000). The policy will be reviewed every year.

Aims and objectives

RSE at Ackworth School (the School) is intended to provide age-appropriate relationship and sex education to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It enables our pupils to build up their confidence and self-esteem and learn to respect themselves and others. We aim to create an atmosphere of learning which allows pupils to understand human sexuality and healthy relationships in a safe space, to allow sensitive discussion and honest answers to dispel misconceptions with clear ground rules, and without judgement.

Working with Parents

A summary of information about RSE provision for each year group is available at the end of this policy, and parents and families are welcome to review the content and resources. We value the views of parents, and if a parent has any concerns about the RSE provision then time will be taken to address their concerns and make efforts to overcome any specific difficulties.

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Parents wanting to exercise this right are invited to see the Deputy Head who will explore their concerns. In accordance with statutory guidance (2019), if parents still wish to withdraw their child after these discussions they may do so, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive RSE rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements for this provision.

Teaching and Learning

The majority of RSE will be delivered as part of the PSHE education provision from First Form to Sixth Form. RSE will be delivered by teachers of PSHE, as well as external provision from Spectrum Community Health CIC, who will deliver sessions to



Ackworth School

the Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms as part of teacher-led units. Additional content will be delivered during form periods.

RSE sits within the ethos of the school regarding respect for others, as well as a wider moral framework. We encourage pupils to take a responsible attitude to sex and promote the view that it should be part of an established loving relationship. Pupils are also made aware of legal issues including those surrounding the age of consent, and the rights of all citizens regarding sexual orientation in relation to the Equality Act 2010.

Diversity guidance

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND): Some students may have learning, emotional or behavioural difficulties or physical disabilities which result in particular RSE needs. Delivery of RSE will be differentiated where necessary to address the needs of these students, enable them to access the content of RSE and ensure inclusivity. Pupils in the Autism Resource, Shed Court, will follow appropriate individualised PSHE/relationships programmes.

Sexuality: RSE teaching at the School aims to recognise that all families and relationships are different, but equally valid and important. Pupils may define themselves as LGBT+ (gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender) or know others that do. We will offer considerate and understanding discussion and examples of different sexualities and identities, encouraging pupils to be understanding of others' sexual identity in accordance with the Independent School Standards 2018. We will also recognise that marriage for same sex couples is part of the law in this country.

Content

RSE covers content under the general headings of families; respectful relationships, including friendships; online and the media; being safe; intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health.

Provision by Year Group

First Form pupils learn about respecting diversity, healthy relationships including bullying, recognising emotions and managing respect in a relationship. They also cover the topic of sexual reproduction in Biology and First Form ICT lessons cover content on e-safety and online bullying.

Second Form pupils learn about friendships and types of relationships; body image; gender and sexual identity and consent around peer pressure and sharing images.



Ackworth School

Third Form pupils learn about how to manage a relationship that has broken down, whether it be friendship, family or a romantic relationship. Third Form ICT lessons cover content on body image, social media and air-brushing. They also receive 4 hours of external RSE provision in the summer term, with topics covered including building healthy relationships and recognising unhealthy relationship behaviours; risky behaviour including consent, sex and the law, alcohol, pregnancy and online safety; sexual behaviour including sexuality and contraception and sexual health.

Fourth Form pupils follow the 'Do' programme by Durex which allows them to build on Third Form content in much smaller discussion groups with a focus on realistic expectations, safe and consensual sex and problem solving. **We do not encourage early sexual experimentation, but teach young people to understand sexuality and to respect themselves and others, enabling them to understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity and have the knowledge to build safe, fulfilling and healthy sexual relationships, at the appropriate time.** Fourth Form pupils also receive external provision on Child Sexual Exploitation.

Fifth Form pupils focus on physical and sexual health and explore self-examination and screening as well as CPR. They also examine the issues of sexual harassment, domestic abuse and coercive control and their expectations and behaviour around sex and sexuality, including the influence of pornography. Fifth Form pupils receive external provision on the role of parents, and unplanned and teenage parenthood, and also consider choices related to fertility, including pregnancy, miscarriage and abortion.

Sixth Form students take a closer look at sexual health including sexually transmitted infections and contraception. They also revisit building healthy relationships and recognising unhealthy relationship behaviours and consider issues such as the impact of pornography and sexual assault.

The Head of PSHE, working with the Deputy Head, is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the curriculum outlined above.