

Emerson Park Academy



RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION POLICY

_____ Signature (Chair of Board of Directors)

Date Reviewed: September 2023

Next Review Date: September 2026

Introduction

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is part of a lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. At EPA, RSE is centred on personal safety, caring for others and building strong family relationships. This is coupled with teaching students about sexual health (including safe sex), and sexuality. Effective relationships and sex education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives, this includes a detailed understand of what consent is and what healthy relationships look like.

RSE at EPA is intended to help pupils learn about relationships, emotions, sexuality and sexual health. We aim to present relevant facts in an objective and balanced manner. Lessons are set in the context of the family, friends and wider societal issues and address responsibilities that arise from within these relationships.

RSE at EPA will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood, with a focus on the connection between healthy relationships and positive mental health.

Legislation

We are required to teach RSE as part of statutory guidance set out by the Department for Education in a document entitled: *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education*.

This policy is also in conjunction with our Equality Policy and The Equality Act 2010.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

The delivery of RSE at EPA is underpinned by the following moral and statements:

- The delivery of RSE is factual, sensitive and balanced.
- RSE within the school promotes meaningful, loving, and healthy relationships.
- Whilst delivering RSE staff will avoid the imposition of personal opinion. Instead they will stay focused on the social, moral, spiritual, health and education aspects of the topics.

Across the faiths, there is obviously some variation in attitudes and outlooks in regard to Relationships and Sex. Whilst such views are not necessarily shared by all, they must be respected by all as there are “*No Outsiders*” within our community. EPA is respectful of all cultural and religious differences.

Parental Rights and the Curriculum

Parents/Carers are welcome to make an appointment to view the resources used as part of RSE. Please contact info@emersonparkacademy.org to arrange an appointment.

Parents also have the right to request their child is removed from RSE until three terms before the child turns 16. Please contact info@emersonparkacademy.org if you wish to discuss this further.

The Teaching of Relationships, Sex Education

RSE is taught across the curriculum but specifically in PSHE (delivered in the Summer Term of the Cultural Studies programme) and Science.

Form activities and assemblies form a vital part of the PSHE curriculum and many aspects of healthy relationships, including consent, will be delivered at these times. Form activities are Zoomed into Form Time for consistency across the school.

Some relevant sessions in the hall will also take place with each year group throughout the year.

Year 7 Topics

Healthy relationships/consent

Puberty - including changes to the body.

Introduction to Contraception

In Science - the structure and function of the male and female reproductive systems including the menstrual cycle, pregnancy and birth.

Year 8 Topics

Healthy relationships/consent

Contraception

Introduction to common sexually transmitted infections

Year 9 Topics

Healthy relationships/consent

Contraception

Sexually Transmitted Infections

High risk behaviour

Year 10 - Topics

Healthy relationships/consent

Getting to know your body for lumps

Year 11 - Topics

Healthy relationships/consent

Contraception

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Checking your body for lumps

In Science - the structure of the female reproductive system, menstrual cycle and its hormonal control, contraception.

Question and Answer Sessions

Pupils are allowed to ask any question they wish regarding RSHE, many of these questions tend to be centred around healthy relationships. However, we do find we get asked about topics that the pupils have heard about online, we answer these in a factual, age appropriate manner.

Form Time

During form time the pupils have a variety of assemblies, both in the hall or via Zoom, that focus on healthy relationships and the issue of consent. These assemblies refer to both in person and online relationships.

Safety and Confidentiality

During any RSHE session there is a focus on keeping children safe, this is in conjunction with the document *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.

Children are made aware as to how they can raise any concerns they have and who the Designated Safeguarding Lead is. Children are also informed that EPA cannot promise confidentiality, but all matters will be dealt with appropriately and in a supportive manner, with the child's best interest in mind.

Ground Rules

All sessions begin with a reminder about the ground rules.

- 1: Use appropriate and scientific names for body parts.
- 2: Do not refer to a personal situation or ask personal questions.
- 3: Do not attempt to embarrass anyone in the classroom.
- 4: If you have any concerns following the lesson talk to an adult you can trust as soon as possible.
- 5: Remember in school we can support you but we cannot promise confidentiality.

Monitoring & Evaluation of RSE

The Social Science Faculty plan and monitor the delivery of the RSE spiral programme and ensure that all aspects of RSE are covered as defined in government guidance.

The programme is reviewed on an annual basis. Lessons are observed by the Social Science Faculty and pupils are consulted on the delivery and effectiveness of the lessons.

As part of effective RSE provision, the RSE policy should be reviewed every September to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of pupils, staff and parents and that it is in line with current Department for Education advice and guidance.