

GOSFORTH JUNIOR HIGH ACADEMY

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) has always been an integral part of our work at Gosforth Junior High Academy to help students to be physically, socially, and emotionally healthy. We believe the effective teaching of RSE is important if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.

Requirements for schools regarding RSE and Health education and the law

The Department of Education informed all state secondary schools that from September 2020 the teaching of RSE would be compulsory. In support of this decision the Secretary of State for Education stated the following:

‘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.

This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. The key decisions on these subjects have been informed by a thorough engagement process, including a public call for evidence that received over 23,000 responses from parents, young people, schools and experts and a public consultation where over 40,000 people contacted the Department for Education’.

What is relationships and sex education?

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It should equip children and young people with the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships, to enjoy their sexuality and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.

Who will deliver relationships and sex and health education?

Delivery of RSE and Health education will be carried out by Gosforth Junior High Academy teaching staff who teach Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). Staff will be supported by NHS school nurses; either in the classroom, through the school assembly programme and on curriculum days dedicated to RSE and Health education.

How will delivery of the content be made accessible to all pupils, including those with special educational needs (SEND)?

Teaching staff will tailor the delivery of the PSHCE curriculum to the needs of all their students, differentiating lesson plans where appropriate, to take account of the sensitivity and maturity of the

students in their care. Teaching staff will take particular note of student information provided by the school's SEND co-ordinator.

When and how often will RSE and Health education be taught at Gosforth Junior High Academy?

RSE and Health Education will be taught through PSHCE lessons, which are weekly for year 7 and 8 students and weekly for year 5 and 6 students. A scheme of work giving details of the RSE content is set out in this policy. Although there are dedicated lessons given to the delivery of RSE, the subject matter of RSE and Health education will, from time to time, be integrated into the wider teaching of PSHCE and supported through the school assembly programme.

How is the RSE policy produced?

Gosforth Junior High Academy's RSE policy has been produced in discussion with Gosforth Academy PSHCE teaching staff, Pastoral staff and feedback from parents and students.

Parents have been invited to comment on the policy and their views have been taken into account. Likewise the school's student voice representatives from all year groups have contributed.

How it will the RSE policy be kept under review?

The RSE policy will be reviewed in the autumn of each academic year.

How often will the RSE policy be updated?

The policy will be updated if required based on the review of the policy each autumn of the academic year.

Parents' right to withdraw their child from RSE.

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Before granting any such request we at Gosforth Junior High Academy believe it would be good practice for the head of school or designated member of staff to discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The head of school or designate will discuss with parents the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child's social and emotional wellbeing, 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.

This process is the same for pupils with SEND. However, there may be exceptional circumstances where the head of school 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, it is the school's responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

Approval of the RSE policy

Approval of the RSE policy will be given by the trustees of the school.

Relationship and sex education (RSE) curriculum

Details of content/scheme of work and when each topic is taught is found in the appendix of this policy.

Appendix

Relationship Education Curriculum Content

Key Stage 2

Guidance recommendations	Covered in KS2 curriculum?
Families and friendships Characteristics of healthy family, different families, marriage, how to seek help	Year 5 - Autumn 2 Year 6 - Autumn 2
Caring friendships Characteristics of friendship, ups and downs, who to trust and how to manage difficult situations	Year 5 - Autumn 2 Year 6 - Autumn 2
Respecting ourselves and others / Safe relationships Respecting difference in people, courtesy and manners, self-respect, bullying, stereotypes	Year 5 - Spring 1 and Spring 2 Year 6 - Spring 1 and Spring 2
Media and digital literacy People pretending to be someone else, respect, recognising risks and harmful content, how information/data is shared	Year 5 - Autumn 1 and Summer 1 Year 6 - Autumn 1 and Summer 1
Being safe / Health and well-being Boundaries in friendships, privacy, appropriate and inappropriate physical contact, recognises feelings of being unsafe about an adult, how to report concerns, where to get advice	Year 5 - Autumn 1 and 2, Summer 2 Year 6 - Autumn 1 and 2, Summer 2

Appendix

Relationship and Sex Education Curriculum Content.

Key Stage 3

Guidance recommendations	Covered in KS3 curriculum
Families Different types of stable relationships	Year 7 - Spring 2 Year 8 - Spring 2
Respectful relationships, including friendships Characteristics of positive friendships (including online), stereotypes, bullying, equality act 2010	Year 7 - Spring 1 and 2, Summer 2 Year 8 - Spring 2 and Summer 1
Online and media Online behaviour, online risks, sharing material, how information is shared online	Year 8 - Autumn 1
Being safe Abuse, grooming	Year 7 - Autumn 1 Year 8 - Autumn 1
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health Recognising characteristics of healthy 1:1 relationships inc consent, alcohol and drugs	Year 8 - Spring 2

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 18 January 2024