



Conisborough *College*

Relationships and Sex Education Policy
(from September 2022)

Date Agreed by Full Governors: 22nd September 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. J. ...', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Chair of Governors Signature:

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1. Aims

Conisborough College values PSHE as one way to support children's development as human beings, to enable them to understand and respect who they are, to empower them with a voice and to equip them for life and learning.

We include the statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) within our whole-school PSHE curriculum. This is also complemented by additional resources that are delivered by tutors within our pastoral programme.

To ensure progression and a spiral curriculum, we use the PSHE Associations' Mapping tool and a range of resources and guest speakers to meet the requirements of the DfE guidance on Relationship, Sex and health education.

The aims of RSE at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence, and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained secondary school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Conisborough College, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy and complete online surveys
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made; the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE aims to allow students to share and discuss attitudes from a range of cultural perspectives. At the same time students are made to understand that teachers will challenge prejudice: racism, sexism and homophobia.

RSE is required to be taught in a moral framework and young people will learn these values throughout all aspects of school life and through all subjects, not just PSHE. Among the values promoted are:

- Respect and responsibility for self and others, and a willingness to see choices made by others as equally valid
- Explore the physical, sexual, emotional and moral implications and risks, of certain types of behaviour.

5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, considering the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner, so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

6. Delivery of RSE

At Conisborough College, RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum across Year 7-11. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects may be included in religious education (RE).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional. As well as staff delivering the 'Positive Choices' programme. Positive Choices is a whole school social marketing intervention for secondary schools that aims to reduce unintended teenage pregnancies, improve sexual health and reduce health inequalities. Its design is based on international research evidence.

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe including criminal and sexual exploitation
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health and consent

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

One of the key intentions in our delivery of RSE is to provide a safe environment where students feel able to participate in the lesson. In PSHE lessons, the setting up of the ground rules, reminding students of confidentiality issues and the use of warm up games helps to provide this environment. We encourage the use of drama, art and creative activities, using techniques to encourage exploration of attitudes and case studies to develop empathy.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Governing Board has delegated the approval of this policy to Behaviour and Personal Development Committee.

7.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE

Where a member of staff is concerned that a safeguarding issue is arising it is their responsibility to follow the school's policy in this matter.

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE including the materials that need to be taught as part of the Pastoral Programme during tutor time. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Staff Responsibility/Delivery of RSE

Will Conn- Assistant Headteacher

Andrea Phillips- Behaviour

PD Lead Lydia Andrew- PSHE/RSE

Lead

Humanities Team- KS3 and KS4 PSHE Delivery

Science Team- KS3 and KS4 Science Curriculum

RE Teacher- KS3 and KS4 RE Curriculum

Form Tutors- PSHE/Citizenship/Pastoral Programme

7.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

In lesson, these are the main points which will be emphasised for pupils:

- No one (teacher or student) will have to answer a personal question
- No one will be forced to take part in a discussion
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way
- Teachers may use their discretion in responding to questions and may say that the appropriate person to answer that question is the parent or any other trusted adult

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, it is the child's choice: if a child who is at least 15 years and 9 months old chooses to be taught the sex education components of the RSE Curriculum, Conisborough College will take all reasonable efforts to ensure that they are.

The sex education component of the RSE Curriculum are those areas covered in the "Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health" part of Appendix 2 – DFE requirements

Students cannot be legally withdrawn from the aspects of sex education that are taught as part of the national and statutory science curriculum (they may only be withdrawn from the aspects of sex education that are taught as part of the RSE Curriculum).

The form for making a request for withdrawal is at Appendix 3 to this Policy. It needs to be addressed to the school's Headteacher, via the school office or email address. Requests will not be granted unless exceptional circumstances are stated.

The school's Headteacher or a member of senior leadership should discuss the request with parents/carers and, as appropriate, with the child to:

- a. Ensure that their wishes are clear
- b. Clarify the nature, purpose and intended benefits of the RSE Curriculum
- c. Explain the potential risks of withdrawing a child, including the social and emotional risks of being excluded and the possibility of hearing about sex education elements of the RSE Curriculum from other students, rather than a qualified adult.

These discussions should be noted, and withdrawal requests will be stored on the student's educational record. When a student is withdrawn from the non-statutory areas of sex education, they will be given alternative work.

The process to request to withdraw students from the sex education components of the RSE Curriculum is the same for SEND students. However, in exceptional circumstances the Headteacher may want to take the specific needs of a SEND student into account when making this decision.

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their CPD within our continuing professional development calendar.

The Headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Assistant Headteacher, PSHE/RSE Lead and Behaviour Lead for Personal Development through:

- Work scrutiny, learning walks and pupil feedback.
- Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by Will Conn (Assistant Headteacher) annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Behaviour and Personal Development Governor.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

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

Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting • 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 to recognise this in others' relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 relationship • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships • How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g., how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice) • That in school and in 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 get help • That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control • What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable • The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online • About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another 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 is sent to them • 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 (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties, including jail • How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (in all contexts, including online)

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 or 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 men and women • That there are a 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 to enjoy intimacy without sex • The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available • The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage • That there are choices in relation to pregnancy (with medically and legally 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), including HIV/AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and 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

Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS		
Name of child		Class
Name of parent		Date
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education		
Any other information you would like the school to consider		
Parent signature		

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	