

Featherstone High School

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy



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Statutory Policy

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1.0 Introduction

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is part of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. At FHS RSE is centred on personal safety, caring for others, inclusion and building strong relationships. This is coupled with teaching students about sexual health (including safe sex), gender and sexuality. We take a firm stance in educating against prejudice and stereotypes and promoting inclusion.

FHS wants parents and pupils to feel assured that RSE will be delivered at a level appropriate to both the age and development of pupils, and that it is safe to voice opinions and concerns relating to the provision of RSE. Through the teaching of RSE we do not seek to promote any single lifestyle or relationship other than ones which are healthy and tolerant. We do not seek to contradict the teachings students may receive at home about what is and is not an acceptable way to live their lives. We do teach that deliberate harmful speech or actions towards others based on family background, sexuality, gender or any protected characteristic is morally wrong and against the law. Through our constant focus on our FHS Values and tolerance, we ensure that all beliefs and people are treated with respect and teachers will challenge prejudiced views if they arise. (For more information about the ways in which FHS promote equality and equal opportunity please see the FHS Equality Policy which is available on the school website.)

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, pupils and staff from FHS to ensure that it meets the needs of the school community. The policy is available on the school website and is reviewed and approved by the governing board annually.

2.0 Policy Aims

Effective relationships and sex education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. RSE at FHS is intended to help students 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 (including healthy and safe use of the internet) and address responsibilities that arise from within these relationships. RSE at FHS will help young people learn to respect and be accepting of themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood, making safe and appropriate choices.

3.0 Staff

RSE will be taught across the curriculum but specifically in PSHE and Science. Form tutors are responsible for teaching PSHE in all year groups. Teachers will ensure that they are up to date with school policy and curriculum requirements regarding RSE and will engage in professional development and/or seek expert help from the PSHE Coordinator when required. Teachers will encourage pupils to talk confidently and respectfully about their social, personal and emotional development. Teachers will always challenge misconceptions and report safeguarding concerns in line with school policy.

Whilst delivering RSE staff will avoid the imposition of personal opinion. Instead, they will stay focused on the social, moral, spiritual, health and educational aspects of the topics with an awareness of values and the law.

On the rare occasion a member of staff feels unable to teach a particular topic in sex education (only in extreme cases where the school may need to safeguard the member of staff) they can seek support from the PSHE coordinator or HoY, if a particular topic has a measurable mental health impact on them. This will be dealt with sensitively, on a case-by-case basis via HR. Staff may not opt out based solely on personal opinion or preference.

Certain aspects of the RSE programme will be taught by members of the social inclusion department and external professionals. Students who need additional information and support will receive this on a one-to-one basis or in small groups.

As with all lessons at FHS, RSE lessons are planned and adapted by teachers to address the specific educational needs of their students including those with SEND.

4.0 Dealing with difficult questions

Staff are trained in how to deal with difficult questions when delivering sensitive topics like RSE. This support will be given by the PSHE Coordinator. However, there may still be times when staff are faced with a difficult question in class that they feel uncomfortable or ill equipped to answer. In this case, they are advised to the question to one side and seek advice from the PSHE Coordinator or HoY so that an accurate, appropriate answer is given.

5.0 Parental Rights and the Curriculum

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the Sex Education element of RSE. This is the biological aspect of human growth and reproduction. However, it is important to note that these elements of the curriculum are also taught through the Science curriculum from which parents do not have the right to withdraw their child.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from 'Relationship' Education. This is the teaching of all aspects of healthy and inclusive relationships including lessons which may contain themes such as: consent; bullying; hate crime & intolerance; Laws about sexual conduct; sexuality; gender identity; grooming; abusive behaviour.

If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from aspects of the RSE programme then they need to write a letter to the PSHE Coordinator or the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) stating their reasons for the request. Parents will be invited into school to discuss their relevant concerns regarding the programme and to view materials.

Up to three terms before their sixteenth birthday a student can opt to re-join Sex Education lessons. Students will not be placed back into Sex Education unless they actively ask to do so. If a parent wishes to make a complaint about the RSE programme or any element of its delivery, they should follow procedures set out in the FHS Complaints Policy which is available on the school website.

6.0 Confidentiality & Safeguarding

Staff are guided by Keeping Children Safe in Education, which provides guidance for education professionals and details of these are provided in the DfE Relationship and Sex Education (2020) guidance. We make it clear to pupils what our procedures are with regard

to confidentiality. Similarly if questions are asked in class or in assembly, adults will follow agreed practice based on DfE guidance.

7.0 Monitoring & Evaluation of RSE

The PSHE Coordinator and Heads of Year plan and monitor the delivery of the RSE programme and ensure that all aspects of RSE are covered as defined in government guidance, especially the National Curriculum for PSHE and Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education (2020). The RSE programme of study (part of the PSHE PoS) is reviewed annually. Lessons are observed by the HoY & DHoY for the relevant year group as well as the PSHE coordinator and students may be consulted on the delivery and effectiveness of the lessons. On occasion curriculum days and external speaker visits provide opportunities to explore the themes of RSE & Health Education.

Appendix 1 - Other relevant policies and procedures

- [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [Equality Policy](#)

Reference

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/912592/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_Sep_2020.pdf

Appendix 2 - Roles & Responsibilities

Form tutor	Form tutors will familiarise themselves with lesson content and plans. They will adapt the material to ensure it is properly scaffolded and appropriate for students in their class. Teachers of PSHE will ensure that they are up to date with school policy and curriculum requirements regarding sex education and will attend and engage in professional development training.
Head of Year & Deputy Head of Year	Heads and Deputy Heads of Year will work with the PHSE Coordinator to update and adapt PoS and Lessons for use within their year groups. They will ensure resources are shared with form tutors in good time enabling them to familiarise themselves with content to be taught. Heads and Deputy Heads of Year will ensure that they are up to date with school policy and curriculum requirements regarding sex education and will attend and engage in professional development training.
PSHE Coordinator	The PSHE Coordinator will ensure that all staff delivering PSHE (RSE & Health Education) are familiar with the school's policy. They will ensure all elements of RSE & Health Education are covered in an age appropriate manner. The PSHE coordinator will work with H/DHoY to update and amend PoS and resources to ensure lessons are age appropriate. They will meet with parents who wish to ask questions or withdraw their child from any element of the RSE & Health Education PoS. They will ensure staff are supported effectively to deliver all elements of RSE & Health Education and will carefully consider any requests from staff to be withdrawn from teaching particular topics.
Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)	The Deputy Headteacher overseeing Pastoral care, will ensure that RSE and Health Education is taught consistently across the year groups and will report back to the Governors on educational outcomes. They will ensure that staff receive all necessary support and training to be able to deliver RSE. They will ensure that staff are supported and up to date with policy changes. They will ensure that RSE and Health Education is well led, effectively managed and well planned across PSHE in all year groups and across all subjects (to avoid unnecessary duplication of topics) and that the quality of provision is subject to regular and effective self-evaluation. The Deputy Headteacher will ensure that teaching is age-appropriate.
Governor	Governors will monitor and evaluate the impact of the policy by PoS as well as student and staff feedback. They will hold the Headteacher to account for the implementation of the policy.