

WHARFEDALE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Version 1.0

Reviewed by Imogen Hardy

Approved by SLT –

Review Cycle – Annual

Next review – September 2025

Document History

Revision	Amended by	Revision Date	Description
Created	Imogen Hardy Julie Butterfield	September 2020	Created in line with new mandatory requirements (DfE/NYCC).
Reviewed	Imogen Hardy Julie Butterfield	June 2022	Review

Table of Contents

Definition.....	3
Aims.....	3
Reference to related School Policies.....	3
Legal Framework.....	4
Curriculum.....	4
Roles and Responsibilities.....	5
The Headteacher.....	5
Staff.....	5
Parents / Carers.....	5
Equal Opportunities.....	6
Who will teach it?.....	6
Dealing with sensitive issues.....	6
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	6
Safeguarding and Confidentiality.....	7
Review.....	7

Definition

Relationships and Sex Education 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 involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

Aims

Our aim at Wharfedale Montessori School is to teach RSE in accordance with our mission statement with its focus on nurturing the well-being, independence and confidence of all our pupils. RSE at Wharfedale Montessori School will:

- provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- help pupils to prepare for puberty, to understand the importance of health, hygiene and self care
- support pupils in developing self-respect, confidence and empathy
- enable pupils to understand the qualities of healthy relationships and develop essential skills for building positive relationships, both on and offline, which demonstrate respect (for self and others), equality, responsibility, care and compassion
- create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

Reference to related School Policies

This policy links to:

- Safeguarding Children/Child Protection Policy
- Inclusion and Equality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
- PSHE Policy
- On-line Safety Policy
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy
- Confidentiality Policy

Legal Framework

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Childcare Act 2006
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021
- Working together to safeguard children 2018
- Keeping children safe in education 2022
- The Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2002 and the Education Act 1996
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017

Curriculum

At Wharfedale Montessori School we follow the North Yorkshire County Council Programme of Study. We take into account the principles of high quality RSE which are set by the Sex Education Forum <https://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk> . RSE:

- Is an identifiable part of our personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum, which has planned, timetabled lessons.
- Is taught by staff regularly trained in RSE and PSHE.
- Works in partnership with parents and carers, informing them about what their children will be learning and about how they can contribute at home.
- Delivers lessons where pupils feel safe and encourages participation by using a variety of teaching approaches with opportunities to develop critical thinking and relationship skills.
- Is based on reliable sources of information, including about the law and legal rights, and distinguishes between fact and opinion.
- Promotes safe, equal and caring relationships and discusses real-life issues appropriate to the age and stage of pupils, including friendships, families and consent.
- Gives a positive view of human sexuality, with honest and medically accurate information, so that pupils can learn about their bodies and sexual and reproductive health in ways that are appropriate to their age and maturity.

- Gives pupils opportunities to reflect on values and influences (such as from peers, media, faith and culture) that may shape their attitudes to relationships and nurtures respect for different views.
- Includes learning about how to get help and treatment from sources such as health and advice services, including reliable information online.
- Fosters gender equality and LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans) equality and challenges all forms of discrimination in RSE lessons and in every-day school life.
- Meets the needs of all pupils with their diverse experiences – including those with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Seeks pupils' views about RSE so that teaching can be made relevant to their real lives and assessed and adapted as their needs change.

Roles and Responsibilities

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.
- ensuring parents/carers are informed when their children will be taught RSE to support a partnership approach but also that they do have the right to withdraw their child from any RSE that is not part of the National Curriculum.

Staff

Teaching 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.

Parents / Carers

We aim to work in active partnership with families, value their views and keep them informed of the RSE provision. Families can be invited to review any resources and should contact the Headteacher with any queries or concerns. Parents have the right of withdrawal Under section 405 of the Education Act 1996 and

may opt to withdraw their children from sex education lessons which are not part of the National Curriculum. If a parent wishes to withdraw their child, they are asked to contact the headteacher to discuss the request with the parents so as to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. A record will be kept of these discussions. Consideration will be given on how to protect a pupil from the possible reaction of their peers to this withdrawal.

Equal Opportunities

The RSE policy is in line with the schools' Equality and Inclusion Policy and School ensures that teaching is inclusive and is appropriate and relevant to all pupils. Teachers ensure that the content, approach and use of inclusive language reflect the diversity of the school community, and help all pupils feel valued and included, regardless of their gender, ability, experiences and family background.

Pupils with special educational needs will be given the opportunity to fully participate in lessons, and a differentiated program will be provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

Who will teach it?

All class teachers will teach RSE as part of the Science and PSHE curriculum. Specific sessions will take place in Year 5 on physical changes, and in Year 6 on conception and birth. Parents will be notified prior to these specific sessions taking place.

Dealing with sensitive issues

Teachers are in agreement that staff should answer children's questions relating to RSE in an open and factual way taking into consideration the family background, culture, religious beliefs and pupils' differing experiences. Staff are expected to use their professional judgement and discretion when faced with or answering questions which they deem to be of a sensitive nature. The following ground rules have been established:

- Teachers should not enter into discussions about personal issues and lifestyles
- No one (child or adult) has to answer a personal question
- Nobody is forced to take part in a discussion
- In discussion, teachers will promote the knowledge and use of 'accepted' names of body parts
- Meanings of words are explained in a sensible and factual way

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher will be responsible for monitoring the provision of RSE with an annual review.

Safeguarding and Confidentiality

To protect privacy and engender respect for all, staff will be expected to develop ground rules with pupils at the onset of work. This will include information on confidentiality and information will be given on where pupils can get help on personal concerns both inside and outside school. Pupils should be informed about the remit of confidentiality and that teachers cannot offer or guarantee pupils unconditional confidentiality. Distancing techniques will be used throughout lessons and all teachers will use question boxes (or similar techniques) to allow pupils the opportunity to ask further questions anonymously. If pupils ask particularly sensitive questions that appear to be inappropriate in the circumstances, teachers will deal with this outside of the lesson but an agreed holding statement will be used for example, 'that is a really interesting question and I need time to think because I want to give you a really good answer' this then allows the teacher to follow a number of options. These include: further questioning of the pupil with another member of staff present asking them for interpretation of the question they asked, time to consult with colleagues to construct an appropriate answer, or liaise with the pupil's family, and obtain information about where to get further help or, if the matter is considered a potential Safeguarding issue, the staff member responsible for this will be notified.

It is the responsibility of the school to support its pupils and to carry out its functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils. In fulfilling this duty, they must have regard to guidance around safeguarding. Whilst pupils have the same rights to confidentiality as adults no pupil should be guaranteed absolute confidentiality. Staff will report any information or disclosure which raises concern that a child or children may be at risk of significant harm to the school's senior member of staff, with designated responsibility for Child Protection. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will then, in line with the School's Child Protection policy and the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board guidance and procedures, take action as appropriate. Pupils will be made aware of the law relating to sexual offences and of those circumstances where confidentiality cannot be maintained.

Review

Staff will review the Relationships and Sex Education policy every three years. Parents are invited to comment at each review of the policy.