



Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE) Policy

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Document Quality Control

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Definition and aims

The DfE's statutory requirements mean schools must teach Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education to pupils in primary and secondary education. While the statutory requirements do not apply to sixth form colleges, the DfE recommends that sixth form colleges support students by offering these subjects. Therefore, Cardiff Sixth Form College, Cambridge provides Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education as part of our wider PSHE and pastoral curriculum.

We define 'relationships education' as teaching and learning about the social, legal and emotional aspects of human relationships, including friendships, family life and romantic/intimate relationships. We define 'sex education' as teaching and learning about the physical aspects of human relationships, including human reproduction, contraception, safer sex, and sexually transmitted infections. Our teaching in RSE emphasises recognising and building respectful, healthy relationships with appropriate boundaries, including the concept of consent. We aim to develop students' communication skills, including dealing with conflict and ending relationships when necessary.

Curriculum development

The RSE curriculum has been developed as part of the wider PSHE and pastoral curriculum, led by the Vice Principal Pastoral. It is informed firstly by the DfE's statutory guidance, *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education*. Specific topics of focus have been identified through consultation with college staff, students and parents. Attention is also given to salient safeguarding-related topics. As a result, the PSHE / RSE Scheme of Learning is subject to change during the school year in response to key issues that may emerge on a college, local and national level.

We ensure RSE is inclusive and meets the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by ongoing consultation with college staff, students and parents; consideration of access arrangements; and monitoring and evaluation on a whole school, class and individual level.

In addition, we ensure RSE fosters equality by evaluating our curriculum development and delivery in line with the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty and protected characteristics. We aim to be sensitive to the diverse religious and cultural views of the school community, as well as the experiences of LGBT pupils and those with LGBT family members.

Delivery

RSE is delivered primarily in timetabled weekly PSHE lessons. Classes are divided by year group and House. Year 12 and 13 students receive timetabled PSHE lessons throughout the school year, with the exception of internal and external exam periods.

Lessons are delivered by members of the teaching staff, as well as additional members of staff such as the Vice Principal, House Master etc. as needed. All staff teaching PSHE receive regular training, including how to establish and manage a safe teaching and learning environment when dealing with potentially sensitive or challenging content.

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

The school's RSE provision is monitored and evaluated as part of the wider PSHE provision by the Vice Principal Pastoral. Monitoring includes, but is not limited to, formal and informal observation of lessons, learning walks, work scrutiny, student voice, staff voice and parent voice. PSH/RSE provision is reported on termly by feedback to the governors.

Assessment of PSHE/RSE is completed within lesson time, through a variety of means, including self ratings of knowledge, brief online quizzes, presentations, roleplays and creative work. Progress is monitored and discussed during teacher meetings and half-termly reviews.

Openness and engagement with parents

We are committed to openness with parents regarding RSE. We welcome and actively seek out input and engagement from parents in developing our RSE policy, curriculum and content.

Parents are informed about the RSE policy and PSHE Scheme of Work via our newsletter or email at the beginning of the school year. They can access the RSE policy at any time, along with other policies, on our school website, <https://www.ccoex.com/about-us/cambridge-reports-policies/>, where a representative sample of materials will also be made available. All RSE materials may be requested by emailing the Vice Principal Pastoral. Parents will also be updated termly about upcoming topics in PSHE, including RSE.

Right to withdraw

Until their child is within three terms of turning 16 years old, parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education. This does not include the biological aspects of sex education that may be included in the science curriculum. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from relationships education, health education, or any other part of the PSHE or pastoral curriculum.

If a parent wishes to request to withdraw their child from some or all of sex education, they should in the first instance contact the Vice Principal Pastoral, who will discuss the request with them, ensuring that the parents understand the benefits of sex education and the detrimental effects of withdrawing. This process will be documented and the outcome recorded.

Students who have been withdrawn from sex education will receive appropriate, purposeful education during the periods from which they have been withdrawn. This may include, but is not limited to, support sessions in their A Level subjects, joining and/or presenting to other groups of students in House meetings, or other PSHE provision.

If the student is within three terms of turning 16 or older, the student has the right to opt back into sex education regardless of their parents' wishes. Any such students whose parents have requested withdrawal will be informed that they have this right and will be consulted regarding their preferences.

Safeguarding

The college's RSE policy and PSHE provision are informed by and support our Safeguarding policies and procedures. The PSHE curriculum, including RSE, is regularly updated to include emerging safeguarding issues. PSHE, including RSE, is used as a means to develop students' awareness of and competency in safeguarding-related topics.

Teachers are aware that effective RSE can at times lead to a disclosure of a child protection or safeguarding concern. They will follow the college's normal safeguarding procedures if this occurs, including informing the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as practicable. Information about this can be found in the college's Safeguarding Policy.

RSE delivery may sometimes include external visitors and agencies. The suitability of such visitors and agencies will be carefully considered, including but not limited to checking online presence, requiring oversight of materials to be used, and assessing the suitability of content to be delivered. The college's Visitors Policy will be followed for any in-person visitors. Virtual visits will always be

supervised by a member of staff where necessary. If a visitor/external agency receives a disclosure from a pupil, they will inform the DSL as soon as practicable in person, by phone or by email.