

White Trees  
independent school



## Relationship and Sex Education

Our vision is to provide pupils with the confidence, skills and ambition to achieve a successful and productive life. We aim to ensure they leave the school with a 'new day, new opportunity' ethos and are capable of becoming positive members of their communities. To do this, we have 3 principles that underpin our policies, practices and everything we do:

- Everyone can learn, achieve and has the potential to be successful
- Positive relationships are key to success and are underpinned by mutual trust, respect and caring for one another
- We have high expectations in everything we do

**W**onderful  
**E**xcellent  
**L**ovely  
**C**lever  
**O**utstanding  
**M**agnificent  
**E**nthusiastic

(Acronym created by White Trees pupils)

Reviewed by SLT and the Governing Body,  
 Created by the Head Teacher, March 2020

<b>Policy owner</b>	White Trees School	<b>Last review</b>	June 2024
<b>Date Created</b>	March 2020	<b>Next review</b>	June 2025

## INTRODUCTION

The policy reflects the DfE 2000 SRE guidance and guidance from the PSHE Association, the Sex Education Forum and the local authority.

All school personnel, parents and carers have been made aware of this policy. This policy will be made available to view via the schools' website. Hard copies will also be available at the schools' offices.

## Definition of RSE:

RSE is learning accurate and age-appropriate skills, attitudes and knowledge about the body, reproduction, sex and sexual health. RSE also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health education (PSHE).

## Aims and Outcomes of RSE in the curriculum:

The overall aim of RSE is to foster a positive notion of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development, including how to look after physical and mental health. It aims to support the development of self-respect and empathy for others and promotes the development of skills and understanding necessary to manage conflict peaceably and learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

RSE provides opportunities for pupils to:

- better understand the nature of human relationships
- learn about relationships, the importance of communication and assertiveness skills including the importance of values such as respect (for self and others), equality, responsibility, care and compassion
- reflect upon the importance of stable and loving relationships for family life, including the bringing up of children, this also includes marriage and civil partnerships
- consider and understand the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood
- reflect upon how to make good, informed and safe choices concerning relationships and healthy lifestyles.

## Morals, Values, Equalities and Safeguarding

The RSE programme at White Trees reflects our ethos, and demonstrates and promotes the following:

- Learn the value of respect, care and love
- Valuing family life within stable, loving and committed relationships
- Acceptance of same sex unions as also offering stable, loving and committed relationships to nurture children

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- Respect for self and others
- Respect for rights and responsibilities within relationships
- Appreciate that different, successful family structures exist
- Understanding diversity regarding religion, gender, culture and sexual orientation
- Importance of striving to reduce intolerance and discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion and gender.
- Acceptance of difference and diversity
- Promote gender equality and equality in relationships
- Challenge gender stereotypes and inequality
- Develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness in line with the Equality Act and the schools' safeguarding and child protection protocols.

## Content of the Schools' RSE Programme

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and Media
- Being Safe
- Intimate and Sexual Relationships, including Sexual health
- The Law

## How Relationships and Sex Education is organised in the curriculum.

RSE is not delivered in isolation, but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas including PSHE, Focus weeks/days and Science. At White Trees, the main RSE content is delivered as part of a wider topic to provide a context for learning. Many aspects of RSE are taught throughout the year, whilst some specific age-related aspects are delivered at a pre-planned point during the year in order that parents are informed and can be involved in supporting their child.

- RSE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups.
- PSHE Ground Rules are used in all PSHE and RSE lessons.
- Pupils are able to ask anonymous questions by writing a note for the class teacher
- Resources used are flexible in order to meet the needs of the pupils and curriculum. A selection of these can be viewed during parents/open days and also at our celebration assemblies.
- Correct medical vocabulary will be used throughout the RSE and PSHE curriculum
- RSE is delivered through a varied range of activities, which promote dialogue and understanding. These include: active teaching and learning, role play/scenarios, activities during focus weeks, question and answer sessions with the local school nurse
- External agencies can be invited to support the delivery of RSE. These include: the school nurse and the police.
- External agencies and Visitors are familiar with and understand the school's RSE policy and safeguarding policy and work within these documents

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- All input to RSE lessons is part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance
- All visitors are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff. This evaluation informs future planning.

## Parental involvement

The school is committed to working with parents/carers and believe that it is important to have the support of them and the wider community for the PSHE and RSE programme. Parents are provided with the opportunity to find out about and discuss the school's programme through curriculum meetings, parents' open days, in policy development, the school website and prospectus, displays and an open-door policy.

To promote effective communication and discussion between parents and their children we notify parents through information evenings, termly newsletter letters and the school website about when particular aspects of RSE will be taught. We also encourage an open-door policy to help ensure that parents can discuss issues with the school staff in a positive, sensitive and proactive manner.

## Parental rights to withdraw their children

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all, or part of the RSE curriculum, except for those parts included within the National Curriculum for Science, which are statutory. Effective methods to communicate the schools' approach to RSE, including the parental right to withdraw their child, are through the schools' website and the RSE policy. Parents are invited to open day meetings where they are welcome to discuss any concerns or issues and exercise their right to withdraw their children.

Parents are also informed that the RSE curriculum is an essential vehicle in supporting a school's statutory duty to:

- safeguard and promote the welfare of their children,
- advance the 2010 Equality Act,
- encourage the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils,
- foster British values, and
- prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life, along with the coverage of the National Curriculum for Science.

Those parents/carers wishing to exercise the right to withdraw their child from part or all of RSE are invited in to see the teacher and/or SLT who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn, they cannot take part in the RSE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed. It is then the responsibility of the parents/carers to deliver the content of the RSE to their child as they see fit. Information and support materials are available for parents/carers to use and are offered by the staff. Pupils who are withdrawn from RSE continue with individual learning tasks for other curriculum areas, which are carried out in another classroom or at a library.

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If a conversation arises about sexual health issues in a non-SRE lesson with pupils present who have been withdrawn from RSE lessons, the teacher must stop the conversation and ask that the issues be discussed at an appropriate time. The teacher must, as soon as possible, find an appropriate time to continue the conversation with pupils when the withdrawn child is not present.

### Pupil Involvement

We involve pupils in the development of the RSE curriculum through the Teaching and Learning approach, which promotes dialogue about feedback and learning, enabling teachers to monitor pupils' views. The pupils are able to present their views at regular 'Pupil voice' meetings as part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

### How the school responds to specific issues related to Relationships and Sex Education. Answering Difficult Questions

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others who may have a different opinion. Both formal and informal RSE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned and the limits of the year group topics. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead if they are concerned or believe any pupil to be at risk.

### Ground Rules

RSE is taught in a safe, non-judgmental environment where adults and children are confident that they will be respected. Specific ground rules will be established at the beginning of the RSE work, in addition to those already used in the classroom.

### Inclusion

The RSE policy reflects and is in line with the schools' equal opportunities policy and the schools ensures that the RSE teaching programme is an inclusive one 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, disability, experiences and family background. RSE strives to meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and deals honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answers appropriate questions and offers support. Homophobic and transphobic references and homophobic and transphobic actions and bullying are not tolerated at White Trees and are challenged and dealt with as part of our commitment to promoting inclusion, gender equality and preventing bullying.

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## Confidentiality and Child Protection Issues

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. RSE discussions may prompt a pupil to disclose about related incidents; for example, FGM, Forced marriage, child exploitation or abuse. If the member of staff believes that the child is at risk or in danger or has concerns about any information disclosed, she/he logs any concerns on CPOMS, talking to the named Designated Safeguarding Lead who acts as laid down in the Safeguarding Policy. All staff are familiar with the policy and know the identity of the member of staff with responsibility for Child Protection issues.

The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by staff throughout the process.

## How the Relationships and Sex Education Programme is Monitored, Evaluated and Assessed

We ensure that all pupils have equal access to the RSE programme through a thorough process of monitoring, evaluation and assessment, which takes into consideration pupils' needs, maturity, age, ability and personal circumstances.

Staff assess pupils' understanding and progress through formative and summative processes. These include pre- and post-topic work, drawings, task outcomes, questioning and observation. At the end of the year each pupil reviews the RSE programme they have implemented and passes on any comments to the staff as part of the monitoring cycle. The RSE policy is reviewed on an annual basis considering the feedback from teaching staff, pupils and parents. Governors consider evaluations and recommendations before amending the policy. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.

## Professional Development for Staff

Staff are kept informed of developments in key aspects of RSE, including links with safeguarding, inclusion, equality, child protection and anti-bullying, through regular training provided at staff meetings and INSET days.

## Links to other policies and advice

This RSE Policy is supported by, but not limited to:

PSHE Policy  
Behaviour Policy  
Health and Safety Policy

Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy  
School Visits Policy  
Equality Policy

Anti-bullying Policy  
Relationship and Sex Education Guidance – DfE

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Published on	
By	
Chair of Gov Sig/Date	
Head Teacher Sig/Date	

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