Benjamin Britten School

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

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1. Aims

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at our school are to:

- **Provide age-appropriate, inclusive and accessible RSE** that is carefully sequenced to meet the needs and development of all pupils.
- **Equip pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills** they need to make informed, responsible and healthy choices as they move through adolescence and into adulthood.
- **Enable pupils to develop healthy, respectful and positive relationships**, based on mutual respect, trust, communication, boundaries and consent.
- **Support pupils to recognise and respond to harmful, unhealthy or abusive behaviours**, including sexual harassment, sexual violence, exploitation and online harms, and to know how and where to seek help.
- **Promote equality, diversity and respect for others**, challenging prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes and harmful attitudes.
- **Develop pupils' understanding of physical, emotional and sexual health**, including puberty, reproduction, fertility, contraception, pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.
- **Help pupils navigate the influence of the online world**, including social media, pornography, online relationships and other risks associated with digital communication and sexual behaviour.
- **Create a safe and supportive environment** in which pupils can ask questions, discuss sensitive issues respectfully and develop the confidence to seek support when needed.

2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy, we must provide RSHE to all pupils under section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

In teaching Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), we are required by our funding agreement to have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State, *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education*, issued under section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

We also have regard to the relevant legal duties set out in:

- Sections 404 to 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Section 80A of the Education Act 2002
- Part 6, Chapter 1 of the Equality Act 2010
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.
- Our Academy Trust's funding agreement and Articles of Association.

This policy should be read alongside the school's other relevant policies, including those relating to safeguarding and child protection, equality, behaviour, online safety and SEND.

At Benjamin Britten Music Academy, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents/carers. 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/carers and any interested parties were invited to provide feedback on the policy.

4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSHE.

5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

4. Definition

For the purpose of this policy:

Relationships, sex and health education will:

- Provide young people with the information they need to develop healthy, safe and nurturing relationships of all kinds
- Focus on pupils having respect for themselves and others
- Not normalise early sexual experimentation
- Cover a range of topics, including topics related to abusive behaviour, along with teaching pupils how to stay safe, including online
- Combine sharing information with exploring issues and values
- Emphasise the relationship between physical health and mental wellbeing
- Aim to reduce stigma attached to health issues, in particular relating to mental health, and discourage the pejorative use of language related to ill health
- Support pupils to understand their changing bodies and their feelings, how to protect their own health and wellbeing, and when a physical or mental health issue requires attention
- Build on the primary health and wellbeing curriculum content

5. Curriculum

Our RSHE curriculum is set out as per Appendices 1 and 2, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents and carers, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online. Teaching will be developed to ensure the curriculum is accessible for pupils with SEND.

Our RSHE curriculum content will cover the required themes as set out in Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, and teachers - see appendix 1 for our programme of study in each year group.

We will share all curriculum materials with parents and carers on request.

6. Delivery of RSHE

Relationships & Sex Education is taught in years 7-11:

- through timetabled Relationships and Health lessons
- through our Life Lesson programme taught weekly during registration
- through weekly, themed assemblies delivered by a range of staff
- through external experts identified as providing additional value to our existing curriculum
- through infographics displayed around the school buildings.

2. All pupils within the school have equal access to Relationships & Sex Education. We follow a spiral curriculum through which topics are revisited in order to allow provision for previous absence and different levels of understanding, maturity and learning abilities.

3. Identified SEND pupils will receive a differentiated RSE programme as required (outlined in the Course Content section of this policy).

4. Teachers and all those contributing to Relationships & Sex Education will work within an agreed framework as set out in this policy.

5. We will work with external specialist organisations, consultants and healthcare professionals to ensure our curriculum reflects current best practice.

The school will make sure that:

- Core knowledge is sectioned into units of manageable size
- The required content is communicated to pupils clearly, in a carefully sequenced way and within a planned scheme of work
- Teaching includes sufficient and well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to embed new knowledge, so that it can be used confidently in real-life situations
- “Over blocking” by the school’s filtering and monitoring system doesn’t lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught

RSHE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships, including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online safety and awareness
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

Health education will build on the primary health and wellbeing curriculum content.

RSHE complements several other curriculum subjects. Where appropriate, the school will look for opportunities to make links between the subjects and integrate teaching. The RSHE curriculum will be delivered by appropriately trained members of staff.

Effective teaching will be participative and interactive and will give pupils opportunities to develop skills and to discuss and critically evaluate complex relationship scenarios. When teaching sensitive topics, teachers will consider using approaches such as distancing techniques, setting ground rules with the class to help manage sensitive discussion, and using question boxes to allow pupils to raise issues anonymously.

Teachers will make sure that pupils understand the importance of equality and respect and learn about the law. This will include learning about the rights and protections from discrimination relating to the protected characteristics, including gender reassignment as set out in the Equality Act 2010, by the end of their secondary education.

The school will:

- Make sure that all pupils are taught the facts and the law about biological sex and gender reassignment, recognising that people have legal rights by virtue of their biological sex which are different from the rights of those of the opposite sex with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment. Pupils will also be taught to recognise that people with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment, as with the other protected characteristics, have protection from discrimination and should be treated with respect and dignity
- Be mindful in teaching the facts and the law about biological sex and gender reassignment that beyond the facts and the law about biological sex and gender reassignment there is significant debate
- Not endorse any particular view or teach this as fact – for example, the school will not teach as fact that all people have a gender identity
- Avoid:
    - Any language or activities that repeat or enforce gender stereotypes
    - Any suggestion that social transition is a simple solution to feelings of distress or discomfort

Throughout each year group we will use appropriate material to assist learning, such as:

- Diagrams
- Videos
- Books
- Games
- Discussions and practical activities

Teachers will make sure that all pupils' views are listened to, and will encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Teachers will answer questions sensitively, honestly and appropriately for the age of the pupils.

The school will make sure that all teaching and materials are appropriate for the ages and needs of the pupils including any additional needs, such as special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Assessment and approval of RSHE resources

- All resources and materials used to deliver RSHE will be reviewed and approved prior to use to ensure that they are suitable for the age, developmental stage and needs of our pupils.

- Resources will be assessed for:
  - **Accuracy and reliability**, ensuring that factual and health information is current and supported by reputable sources.
  - **Age and developmental appropriateness**, including the language, images, examples and level of detail used.
  - **Inclusivity and equality**, ensuring that resources appropriately reflect the diversity of pupils and families and do not promote stereotypes or discriminatory views.
  - **Safeguarding**, including consideration of whether content could cause distress, disclose sensitive information or expose pupils to inappropriate or harmful material.
  - **Alignment with the RSHE curriculum and statutory guidance**, ensuring that resources support the intended learning outcomes and are consistent with the school's RSHE policy.
  - **Suitability of external resources and organisations**, including consideration of their purpose, reputation, evidence base and any commercial or ideological interests.
- The member of staff responsible for RSHE will oversee the approval of resources. Where resources cover particularly sensitive or potentially controversial content, these will be reviewed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or a member of the senior leadership team before use.
- Staff will use professional judgement when selecting resources and will review resources periodically to ensure that they remain accurate, appropriate and relevant. Any concerns identified following use will be recorded and considered as part of the curriculum review process.

The school will engage with parents and carers when developing and reviewing the RSHE curriculum. Parents and carers will be provided with clear information about what is taught and how RSHE is delivered, and their views will be considered as part of the curriculum review process.

Assessment

- Pupils' learning in RSHE is assessed through a combination of **knowledge-based and skills-based assessment**. Assessment is used to identify pupils' understanding, monitor progress and inform future teaching.
- Assessment may include:
  - Knowledge-based assessments to check pupils' understanding and recall of key content.
  - Skills-based assessments to assess pupils' ability to apply their learning to realistic situations, make informed decisions, communicate effectively and respond appropriately to different scenarios.
  - Baseline and endpoint assessments, where appropriate, to identify pupils' starting points and measure progress over a unit.
  - Teacher, self and peer assessment, as appropriate to the activity and intended learning.
  - Pupil reflection at the end of each unit, enabling pupils to consider their learning and identify areas they may need to develop further.
- Assessment information and pupil feedback will be used by teachers to identify gaps in knowledge and skills and to adapt future teaching where necessary. End-of-unit pupil reflections will also contribute to the annual review of the RSHE curriculum, helping to identify changes or improvements needed for subsequent cohorts.

It is important for secondary pupils to know what the law says about certain topics covered in RSHE, particularly in relation to the law and young people. This will help pupils identify what is right and wrong, and can provide a foundation of knowledge for deeper discussion. These topics include, but are not limited to:

- Marriage, including forced marriage and civil partnerships
- Consent, including the age of consent
- Domestic abuse, stalking, rape, sexual offences, female genital mutilation (FGM), 'virginity testing' and hymenoplasty
- Sexual abuse, harassment and exploitation, including public sexual harassment and harmful sexual behaviour
- Online behaviours including image and information sharing (including sexual imagery, making or sharing nudes and semi-nudes and including AI-generated sexual imagery and deepfakes). Pupils should understand the law about online sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, including grooming and sextortion
- Pornography
- Abortion
- The protected characteristics
- The age of criminal responsibility

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

The school will continue to develop knowledge of topics specified for primary schools as required and in addition cover the content specified for secondary schools.

We may amend our curriculum content to respond to the needs and context of our pupils, to discuss issues affecting them in an age-appropriate manner.

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

Across our school, we will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property or hate crime.

6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- Is accessible to pupils with SEND
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- During lessons, makes pupils feel:
    - Safe and supported
    - Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
    - A whole-class setting

- Small groups or targeted sessions
- 1-to-1 discussions
- Digital formats

- Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

6.2 Use of resources

We will consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSHE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age and maturity of the pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

We will make sure that when we consult parents/carers we provide a representative sample of the resources that the school plans to use.

We will ensure that parents/carers are able to view all curriculum materials used to teach RSHE on request.

Parents/carers are not able to veto curriculum content.

We will comply with any applicable copyright laws when sharing resources with parents or carers, and will include a statement that parents agree to as a condition of access that the content should not be copied or shared further except as authorised under copyright law.

7. Use of external organisations and curriculum materials

Whilst the school may work with external organisations to deliver the curriculum, it remains responsible for the content and the way in which pupils are taught.

We will make sure that any agency and any materials used are accurate, age and stage-appropriate, and unbiased and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

We **will**:

- Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSHE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
    - Are age-appropriate
    - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
    - Are accessible for all pupils, including those with SEND
    - Are sensitive to pupils' needs
    - Comply with:
        - This policy
        - The Teachers' Standards
        - The Equality Act 2010

- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Education Act 1996

- Only work with external agencies where we have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses
- Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
- Review any case-study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
- Be clear on:
    - What they're going to say
    - Their position on the issues to be discussed
- Ask to see in advance any materials and lesson plans that the agency may use
- Know the named individuals who will be there, check the credentials of the visitor and/or visiting organisation, and follow our usual safeguarding procedures for these people
- Make sure the visitor understands and agrees in advance:
    - How confidentiality will work in any lesson
    - How safeguarding reports should be dealt with, in line with our school policies
- Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to us, or to parents and carers
- Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
- Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
- Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers
- Inform all external organisations that the school is legally obliged to share all content with parents and carers
- Share all external materials with parents and carers
- Consult parents/carers on the content of external resources on the topic of biological sex and gender reassignment in advance and make all materials available to them on request
- Avoid materials that use cartoons or diagrams that oversimplify the topics of biological sex and gender reassignment, that could be interpreted as being aimed at younger children, or that perpetuate stereotypes or encourage pupils to question their gender

We **won't**, under any circumstances:

- Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
- Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme
- Work with agencies who don't allow their material to be shared with parents and carers. The school will communicate to agencies that it is legally obliged to have regard to the expectation that all content can be shared with parents and carers

8. Roles and responsibilities

8.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSHE policy, and hold the headteachers to account for its implementation.

The governing board will ensure that:

- All pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes
- Teaching is accessible to all pupils with SEND
- Curriculum content and teaching materials are aligned with the guidance
- Clear information is provided for parents on the subject content, teaching materials and external providers, and on the right to request that their child is withdrawn from sex education

8.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for making sure that RSHE is taught consistently across the school, for sharing all resources and materials with parents and carers, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSHE (see section 9).

8.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSHE in a way that is sensitive, high-quality and appropriate for each year group
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSHE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents/carers wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSHE
- Modelling positive behaviour and avoiding language that might perpetuate harmful stereotypes, and being conscious of everyday sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphoboia, sexual violence/harassment, derogatory behaviour and stereotypes
- Where misogynistic ideas are expressed at school, challenging the ideas, rather than the person expressing them
- Reporting any safeguarding concerns or disclosures that pupils may make as a result of the subject content to the school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is overseen by Miss A. Montgomery and delivered by appropriately trained members of the school staff. The curriculum is taught by a range of staff across the school, with appropriate support and guidance provided to ensure consistency and quality of delivery.

8.4 Pupils

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

9. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents/carers **have** the right to request to withdraw their child from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSHE **up to and until 3 terms before the pupil turns 16**. After this point, if

the pupil wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this. We will make sure that pupils know they have this option.

Parents/carers **do not have the right to withdraw their child from Relationships or Health Education**, including curriculum content which supports pupils to recognise and respond to risks and harms as part of the school's safeguarding provision. This includes teaching about areas such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, abuse, sexual harassment, sexual violence, exploitation, grooming and online safety.

Pupils cannot be withdrawn from topics taught as part of the **National Curriculum for Science**, including science content relating to puberty, reproduction and sexual reproduction

Subjects which would be considered 'Sex Education' outside of the science curriculum include:

● **Contraception and the prevention of pregnancy**, including the range of contraceptive methods available and their effectiveness.

● **Sexual activity and sexual behaviour**, including the physical, emotional and social aspects of sexual experiences, and the importance of making informed, responsible and mutually respectful choices.

Parents with concerns or considering withdrawing their child from RSE should in the first instance complete Appendix 3 (Parent Form) and hand this into the Main Reception for the attention of Miss A. Montgomery, Head of Social Sciences. The Head of Social Sciences will liaise with the child's Head of Year, who may invite the parent to a meeting to discuss their concerns and reassure the parents of the health and educational benefits of RSE. In most cases this resolves any concerns, but should parents still wish to withdraw their child from RSE then this will be forwarded to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Headteacher for approval. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record.

In exceptional circumstances, for example because of a safeguarding concern or a pupil's specific vulnerability, the headteacher can refuse a request to withdraw the pupil from sex education.

Alternative schoolwork will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

10. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSHE as part of their induction and it is included in 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 RSHE.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored and evaluated by Miss A. Montgomery (RSHE Coordinator and Head of Social Sciences) through the normal processes of Departmental Review that apply to all areas of the curriculum. This policy will be reviewed by the Governors annually, or sooner where there are significant changes to statutory guidance, legislation, curriculum requirements or the needs of our pupils.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers and their attitude to learning in RSE is reported to parents through school reports (three per year) and at annual Parents' Evenings in KS3. If parents wish to discuss their child's learning in RSE at other times, they are welcome to contact the class teacher.

This policy has due regard to legislation, including, but not limited to the following:

- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Children and Social work act 2017
- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Children Act 1989
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Public Order Act 1986
- Communications Act 2003
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2025.

In addition to the above, this policy has been written in accordance with other school-wide policies, such as:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Careers Guidance
- SEND
- SMSC

It will also have due regard to the current iteration of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Year Group	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
7	**Transition** This unit helps students transition to secondary school, set learning goals and develop social and emotional skills.	**Friendships and Family Relationships** This unit explores friends and family relationships, including how families support each other through change, and the principles of healthy and unhealthy friendships. It also helps students recognise and respond to bullying and other difficult relationship situations		**Puberty and Keeping Safe** This unit revisits learning about puberty from KS2. It then focuses on specific learning about testicular and vulval health, as well as how to identify and report abuse.	**Influences on relationships** This unit helps students consider influences on their expectations of – and attitudes towards – relationships, including online and media influences.	**Personal Safety and Managing Risk** This unit is an opportunity for students to assess risk and support their personal safety in a range of contexts, including on the roads, around water and fireworks.
8	**Health and Wellbeing** This unit focuses on developing students' understanding of key health and wellbeing habits, including making healthier food choices, maintaining good dental hygiene, staying physically active, and establishing positive sleep routines to support overall wellbeing	**Drug Education** This unit develops students' understanding of substances including caffeine, vaping, alcohol, and other drugs.	**The Online World** This unit helps students to recognise how their behaviour can be manipulated online, through algorithms and targeted content. It helps students assess how online platforms generate income through users.		**Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships** This unit introduces a range of relationship issues facing young people, including harassment, image-sharing and gendered violence, and how to get support. **(NSPCC Talk Relationships Unit)**	
9	**Mental Health and Wellbeing** Building on previous learning, this unit gives students the opportunity to rehearse essential self-regulation strategies and apply them to new and complex situations.		**Drug Education** This unit builds on previous learning, focusing on developing skills to manage situations	**Intimate Sexual Relationships** In this unit, students revisit learning about consent and learn about healthy, safe sexual relationships, including using contraception.		**Navigating Online Harms** This unit explores online harms young people may be exposed to,

			involving alcohol, vapes or other substances.		focusing on how they can respond to deepfake AI images and misogynistic narratives.
10	**Independence, health choices and wellbeing** This unit supports students to make informed, healthy and responsible health choices as they transition to key stage 4.	**Navigating the online world** This unit helps students understand the impacts and risks of AI and digital technologies.	**Consent and Abuse in Sexual Relationships** This unit revisits and deepens students' understanding of consent, and helps them recognise, challenge and seek support for harmful behaviours or abuse.	**Influence and Extremism** This unit helps students to evaluate online content, understand how harmful attitudes such as misogyny spread, and recognise the impact of content on wellbeing, attitudes and behaviour.	
11	**Life-Long Wellbeing** This unit revisits and builds on prior learning about mental health, helping students to explore strategies that support wellbeing, especially when managing workload and preparing for exams.	**Personal Safety** This unit supports students to understand the risks linked to gang involvement, manage external influences, and develop strategies to stay safe and seek support.	**Families, Fertility and Pregnancy** This unit explores family life, including committed relationships and parenting responsibilities, fertility and routes to parenthood, and options in the case of unplanned pregnancy.	**Managing and Maintaining Health** This unit helps students explore behaviours that support their own and others' physical health, through prevention of illness, treatment options and emergency responses.	

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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	• That there are different types of committed, stable relationships • How these relationships might contribute to wellbeing, and their importance for bringing up children • Why marriage or civil partnership is an important relationship choice for many couples. The legal status of marriage and civil partnership, including that they carry legal rights, benefits and protections that are not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have, for example, undergone a non-legally binding religious ceremony • That 'common-law marriage' is a myth, and cohabitants do not obtain marriage-like status or rights from living together or by having children • That forced marriage and marriage before the age of 18 are illegal • How families and relationships change over time, including through birth, death, separation and new relationships. • The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising children, including the characteristics of successful parenting and the importance of the early years of a child's life for brain development • How to judge when a relationship is unsafe and where to seek help when needed, including when pupils are concerned about violence, harm, or when they are unsure who to trust
Respectful relationships, including friendships	• About the characteristics of positive relationships of all kinds, online and offline, including romantic relationships. For example, pupils should understand the role of consent, trust, mutual respect, honesty, kindness, loyalty, shared interests and outlooks, generosity, boundaries, tolerance, privacy, and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships • How to evaluate their impact on other people and treat others with kindness and respect, including in public spaces and including strangers. Pupils should understand the legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality, and that everyone is unique and equal • The importance of self-esteem, independence and having a positive relationship with oneself, and how these characteristics support healthy relationships with others. This includes developing one's own interests, hobbies, friendship groups, and skills. Pupils should understand what it means to be treated with respect by others • What tolerance requires, including the importance of tolerance of other people's beliefs • The practical steps pupils can take and skills they can develop to support respectful and kind relationships. This includes skills for communicating respectfully within relationships and with strangers, including in situations of conflict • The different types of bullying (including online bullying), the impact of bullying, the responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help • Skills for ending relationships or friendships with kindness and managing the difficult feelings that endings might bring, including disappointment, hurt or frustration

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• The role of consent, including in romantic and sexual relationships. Pupils should understand that ethical behaviour goes beyond consent and involves kindness, care and attention to the needs and vulnerabilities of the other person, as well as an awareness of power dynamics. Pupils should understand that just because someone says 'yes' to doing something that doesn't automatically make it ethically okay • How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender reassignment, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g. how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice). Pupils should be equipped to recognise misogyny and other forms of prejudice • How inequalities of power can impact behaviour within relationships, including sexual relationships. For example, how people who are disempowered can feel they are not entitled to be treated with respect by others or how those who enjoy an unequal amount of power might, with or without realising it, impose their preferences on others • How pornography can negatively influence sexual attitudes and behaviours, including by normalising harmful sexual behaviours and by disempowering some people, especially women, to feel a sense of autonomy over their own body and providing some people with a sense of sexual entitlement to the bodies of others • How some sub-cultures might influence our understanding of sexual ethics, including the sexual norms endorsed by so-called 'involuntary celibates' (incels) or online influencers
Online safety and awareness	• Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online • About online risks, including the importance of being cautious about sharing personal information online and of using privacy and location settings appropriately to protect information online. They should also understand the difference between public and private online spaces and related safety issues • Not to provide material to others that they would not want to be distributed further and not to pass on personal material which is sent to them. Pupils should understand that any material provided online might be circulated, and that once this has happened there is no way of controlling where it ends up. Pupils should understand the serious risks of sending material to others, including the law concerning the sharing of images • About the characteristics of social media, including that some social media accounts are fake, and/or may post things which aren't real or have been created with AI. They should also know that social media users may say things in more extreme ways than they might in face-to-face situations, and that some users present highly exaggerated or idealised profiles of themselves online • That keeping or forwarding indecent or sexual images of someone under 18 is a crime (even if the photo is of themselves or someone who has consented, and even if the photo was created by that child and/or using AI generated imagery). The potentially serious consequences of acquiring or generating images, indecent or sexual images of someone under 18, including the potential for criminal charges and severe penalties including imprisonment. That sharing indecent images of people over 18 without their consent is also a crime

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• How to seek support. They should also understand that they will not be in trouble for asking for help, either at school or with the police, if an image of themselves has been shared • What to do and how to report when they are concerned about material that has been circulated, including personal information, images or videos, and how to manage issues online • About the prevalence of deepfakes including videos and photos, how deepfakes can be used maliciously as well as for entertainment, the harms that can be caused by deepfakes and how to identify them • That the internet contains inappropriate and upsetting content, some of which is illegal, including unacceptable content that encourages misogyny, violence or use of weapons • Where to go for advice and support about something they have seen online. Pupils should understand that online content can present a distorted picture of the world and normalise or glamourise behaviours which are unhealthy and wrong • That social media can lead to escalations in conflicts, how to avoid these escalations and where to go for help and advice • How to identify when technology and social media is used as part of bullying, harassment, stalking, coercive and controlling behaviour, and other forms of abusive and/or illegal behaviour and how to seek support about concerns • That pornography, and other online content, often presents a distorted picture of people and their sexual behaviours and can negatively affect how people behave towards sexual partners. That this can affect people who see pornographic content accidentally, as well as those who see it deliberately. That pornography can also portray misogynistic behaviours and attitudes which can negatively influence those who see it • How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online • That websites may share personal data about their users, and information collected on their internet use, for commercial purposes (for example, to enable targeted advertising) • That criminals can operate online scams, such as using fake websites or emails to extort money or valuable personal information. This information can be used to the detriment of the person or wider society. About risks of sextortion, how to identify online scams relating to sex, and how to seek support if they have been scammed or involved in sextortion • That AI chatbots are an example of how AI is rapidly developing, and that these can pose risks by creating fake intimacy or offering harmful advice. That it is important to be able to critically think about new types of technology as they appear online and how they might pose a risk
Being safe	• How to recognise, respect and communicate consent and boundaries in relationships, including in early romantic relationships (in all contexts, including online) and early sexual relationships that might involve kissing or touching. That kindness and care for others requires more than just consent • That there are a range of strategies for identifying, resisting and understanding pressure in relationships from peers or others, including sexual pressure, and how to avoid putting pressure on others

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• How to determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy, how to judge when a relationship is unsafe (and recognise this in the relationships of others); how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others if needed • How to increase their personal safety in public spaces, including when socialising with friends, family, the wider community or strangers. About ways of seeking help when needed and how to report harmful behaviour. That there are strategies they can use to increase their safety, and that this does not mean they will be blamed if they are victims of harmful behaviour. About the importance of trusting their instincts when something doesn't feel right, and they should understand that in some situations a person might appear trustworthy but have harmful intentions • What constitutes sexual harassment or sexual violence, and that such behaviour is unacceptable, emphasising that it is never the fault of the person experiencing it • That sexual harassment includes unsolicited sexual language, attention or touching, taking and/or sharing intimate or sexual images without consent, public sexual harassment, pressuring other people to do sexual things, and upskirting • About concepts, laws and where to find support relating to: ○ Sexual violence, including rape and sexual assault ○ Harmful sexual behaviour, which includes all types of sexual harassment and sexual violence among young people but also includes other forms of concerning behaviour like using age-inappropriate sexual language ○ Domestic abuse, including controlling or coercive behaviour, emotional, sexual, economic or physical abuse, and violent or threatening behaviour ○ Harms which are exploitative, including sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and abuse, grooming, and financial exploitation ○ Forced marriage ○ The physical and emotional damage which can be caused by female genital mutilation (FGM), virginity testing and hymenoplasty, where to find support, and the law around these areas. This should include that it is a criminal offence for anyone to perform or assist in the performance of FGM, virginity testing or hymenoplasty, in the UK or abroad, or to fail to protect a person under 16 for whom they are responsible • That fixated, obsessive, unwanted and repeated behaviours can be criminal, and where to get help if needed • That strangulation and suffocation are criminal offences, and that strangulation (applying pressure to the neck) is an offence, regardless of whether it causes injury • That any activity that involves applying force or pressure to someone's neck or covering someone's mouth and nose is dangerous and can lead to serious injury or death

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• That pornography presents some activities as normal which many people do not and will never engage in, some of which can be emotionally and/or physically harmful • How to seek support for their own worrying or abusive behaviour, or for worrying or abusive behaviour they have experienced from others, including information on where to report abuse and where to seek medical attention when required, for example after an assault
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	• That sex, for people who feel ready and are over the age of consent, can and should be enjoyable and positive • The law about the age of consent, that they have a choice about whether to have sex, that many young people wait until they are older, and that people of all ages can enjoy intimate and romantic relationships without sex • About sexual consent and their capacity to give, withhold or remove consent at any time, even if initially given, as well as the considerations that people might take into account prior to sexual activity, such as the law, their faith and family values. That kindness and care for others require more than just consent • 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 • That some sexual behaviours can be harmful • The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available, including male and female condoms, and signposting towards medically accurate online information about sexual and reproductive health to support contraceptive decision making • That there are choices in relation to pregnancy. Pupils should be given medically and legally accurate and 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) • About the use and availability of the HIV prevention drugs Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and post exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and how and where to access them. The importance of, and facts about, regular testing and the role of stigma • About the prevalence of STIs, the short and long-term impact they can have on those who contract them, and key facts about treatment • How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead people to take risks in their sexual behaviour • How and where to seek support for concerns around sexual relationships including sexual violence or harms • How to counter misinformation, including signposting towards medically accurate information and further advice, and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment
Mental wellbeing	• How to talk about their emotions accurately and sensitively, using appropriate vocabulary

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• The benefits and importance of physical activity, sleep, time outdoors, community participation and volunteering or acts of kindness for mental wellbeing and happiness • That happiness is linked to being connected to others. Pupils should be supported to understand what makes them feel happy and what makes them feel unhappy, while recognising that loneliness can be for most people an inevitable part of life at times and is not something of which to be ashamed • That worrying and feeling down are normal, can affect everyone at different times and are not in themselves a sign of a mental health condition, and that managing those feelings can be helped by seeing them as normal • Characteristics of common types of mental ill health (e.g. anxiety and depression), including carefully-presented factual information about the prevalence and characteristics of more serious mental health conditions. This should not be discussed in a way that encourages normal feelings to be labelled as mental health conditions • How to critically evaluate which activities will contribute to their overall wellbeing • How to overcome anxiety or other barriers to participating in fun, enjoyable or rewarding activities – that it's possible to overcome those barriers using coping strategies, and that finding the courage to participate in activities which initially feel challenging may decrease anxiety over time rather than increasing it. • That gambling can lead to serious mental health harms, including anxiety, depression, and suicide, and that some gambling products are more likely to cause these harms than others • That the co-occurrence of alcohol/drug use and poor mental health is common and that the relationship is bi-directional: mental health problems can increase the risk of alcohol/drug use, and alcohol/drug use can trigger mental health problems or exacerbate existing ones • That stopping smoking can improve people's mental health and decrease anxiety
Wellbeing online	• About the benefits of limiting time spent online, the risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices and the impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing • The similarities and differences between the online world and the physical world, including: the impact of unhealthy or obsessive comparison with others online (including through setting unrealistic expectations for body image); how people may curate a specific image of their life online; the impact that an over-reliance on online relationships, including relationships formed through social media, can have • How to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours • About the risks related to online gambling and gambling-like content within gaming, including the accumulation of debt • How advertising and information is targeted at them and how to be a discerning consumer of information online, understanding the prevalence of misinformation and disinformation online, including conspiracy theories • About the risks of illegal behaviours online, including drug and knife supply or the sale or purchasing of illicit drugs online

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• About the serious risks of viewing online content that promotes self-harm, suicide or violence, including how to safely report this material and how to access support after viewing it
Physical health and fitness	• The characteristics of a healthy lifestyle, including physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight, including the links between an inactive lifestyle and ill-health, including cardiovascular ill-health • Factual information about the prevalence and characteristics of more serious health conditions • That physical activity can promote wellbeing and combat stress • The science relating to blood, organ and stem cell donation
Healthy eating	• How to maintain healthy eating and the links between a poor diet and health risks, including tooth decay, unhealthy weight gain, and cardiovascular disease • The risks of unhealthy weight gain, including increased risks of cancer, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease • About the impacts of alcohol on diet and unhealthy weight gain
Drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vaping	• The facts about which drugs are illegal, the risks of taking illegal drugs, including the increased risk of potent synthetic drugs being added to illegal drugs, the risks of illicit vapes containing drugs, illicit drugs and counterfeit medicines, and the potential health harms, including the link to poor mental health • About the law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances • About the physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption • What constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood, and the legal age of sale for alcohol in England • How to increase personal safety while drinking alcohol, including how to decrease the risks of having a drink spiked or of poisoning from potentially fatal substances such as methanol • About the physical and psychological consequences of problem-use of alcohol, including alcohol dependency • About the dangers of the misuse of prescribed and over-the-counter medicines • The facts about the multiple serious harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer and cardiovascular disease), the benefits of quitting and how to access support to do so • The facts about vaping, including the harms posed to young people, and the role that vapes can play in helping adult smokers to quit
Health protection and prevention,	• Personal hygiene, germs and how they are spread, including bacteria and viruses, treatment and prevention of infection, and about antibiotics

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
and understanding the healthcare system	• Dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene, including brushing teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and cleaning between teeth, reducing consumption of sugar-containing food and drinks, and regular check-ups at the dentist • How and when to self-care for minor ailments, and the role of pharmacists as knowledgeable healthcare professionals • The importance of taking responsibility for their own health, and the benefits of regular self-examination and screening • The facts and scientific evidence relating to vaccination, immunisation and antimicrobial resistance. The introduction of topics relating to vaccination and immunisation should be aligned with when vaccinations are offered to pupils • The importance of sufficient good-quality sleep for good health, the importance of screen-free time before bed and removing phones from the bedroom, and how a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn • The importance of healthy behaviours before and during pregnancy, including the importance of pre-conception health, including taking folic acid. The importance of pelvic floor health. Information on miscarriage and pregnancy loss, and how to access care and support • How to navigate their local healthcare system: what a GP is; when to use A&E / minor injuries; accessing sexual health and family planning clinics; the role of local pharmacies; and how to seek help via local third-sector partners which may have specialist services • The concept of Gillick competence. That the legal age of medical consent is 16. That before this, a child's parents will have responsibility for consenting to medical treatment on their behalf unless they are Gillick competent to take this decision for themselves. Pupils should understand the circumstances in which someone over 16 may not be deemed to have capacity to make decisions about medical treatment
Personal safety	• How to identify risk and manage personal safety in increasingly independent situations, including around roads, railways – including level crossings - and water (including the water safety code), and in unfamiliar social or work settings (for example the first time a young person goes on holiday without their parents) • How to recognise and manage peer influence in relation to risk-taking behaviour and personal safety, including peer influence online and on social media • How to develop key social and emotional skills that will increase pupils' safety from involvement in conflict and violence. These include skills to support self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making, as well as skills to recognise and manage peer pressure • Understanding which trusted adults they can talk to if pupils are worried about violence and/or knife crime • The law as it relates to knives and violence. Content and examples should relate to the local context and avoid using fear as an educational tool. Children should be taught that carrying weapons is uncommon, and should not be scared into the perception that many young people are carrying knives (which can lead to the misconception that they need to carry a knife too) • The risks and signs that they may be at risk of grooming or exploitation, and how to seek help where there is a concern
Basic first aid	• Basic treatment for common injuries and ailments

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• Life-saving skills, including how to administer CPR • The purpose of defibrillators, when one might be needed and who can use them
Developing bodies	• The main changes which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health • The facts about puberty, the changing adolescent body, including brain development • About menstrual and gynaecological health, including: what is an average period; period problems such as premenstrual syndrome; heavy menstrual bleeding; endometriosis; and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). When to seek help from healthcare professionals • The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and menopause, and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women

Appendix 3: Parent/carer form requesting their child's withdrawal from sex education within RSHE

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

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