



Relationships, Sex, Health Education Policy

This policy is regularly updated and follows the current statutory RSHE guidance first published in 2019, in force since 2020, and updated in 2021. The 2024 version remains **draft only**. As with any guidance and updates received from the government, the intention is to use finalised and published materials only once consultation responses have been analysed. The new government, elected in July 2024, has suggested that they will consider all evidence and carry out further stakeholder engagement before making any decisions on what form the guidance will take. On confirmation of these decisions the Oldfield RSHE policy will be reviewed and updated.

Last Review:	Dec 2024
Committee:	CC
Date Ratified:	Feb 2025

1. Context

1.1. This Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) policy sets out a framework and ensures that all students develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that enable them to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. Relationship, Sex and Health Education as defined within this policy will:

- help and support our students through their physical, emotional, spiritual, cultural and moral development;
- help students develop the skills and understanding they need to live confident, healthy and independent lives, build positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and to stay safe both on and off line;
- ensure that all students are taught to recognise stable relationships are key building blocks of community and society;
- provide accurate information to enable students to understand difference and to respect themselves and others, preventing and removing prejudice;
- teach young people to understand human sexuality and how to obtain appropriate advice about the body, reproduction, sex and sexual health;
- enable students to mature and build their confidence and self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1. The aim of this policy is to communicate to staff, governors, parents and carers, visitors, and students the way in which RSHE is delivered at Oldfield School. As a result, we aim to:

- enable students to make informed decisions to develop healthy relationships and protect themselves against harmful and exploitative situations;
- help students develop a positive self-image and self-esteem, respect and care for themselves and others and understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives;

- help students gain access to information and support;
- lead healthy lives;
- develop students' knowledge, skills and understanding of the nature and diversity of relationships and sexuality.

2.2. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies -

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Behaviour for Learning
- Online Safety
- Acceptable Use (x2)
- Anti-Bullying
- Single Equality Scheme
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Home-School Links
- SEND
- Drugs

2.3 This policy has been written to align with the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance from the Department of Education.

3. Provision

3.1. The RSHE curriculum is planned by the Head of PSHE and is delivered by teachers and tutors.

3.2. The Head of PSHE is responsible for:

- the development and annual adaptation of the programme including the delivery and teaching resources;
- ensuring that students are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having a regard to the age and cultural background of the students concerned;
- ensuring that all teaching and resources are in line with current legislation;
- school based training. This will be provided for teachers when required;
- ensuring the correct terminology is used throughout the curriculum (e.g. for parts of the body) and to provide staff with the expertise to challenge students' use of slang/nicknames in differing contexts;
- ensuring that students are involved in the planning and review of resources and approaches when appropriate.
- liaising with Heads of Science and Head of Religious Studies to ensure that staff within these Learning Areas who are delivering parts of the curriculum and are familiar with this policy.

3.3. The curriculum includes opportunities for students to develop the skills they need to stay safe from all forms of abuse, "teen" pregnancy and risks to sexual health. Representatives of relevant external agencies are also involved in delivering parts of the programme.

3.4. The School Nurse also offers a sexual health service once a week. This service operates as a drop-in service during lunchtime to provide students with confidential support and advice about sexual health and contraception. In this capacity, the School Nurse will follow their own professional codes of conduct e.g., their provision of contraception.

4. Delivery and Content

- 4.1. Students in Years 7-10 receive the RSE and Health curriculum as timetabled one-hour lessons every fortnight. Aspects of the PSHE curriculum are also delivered during tutor time activities for Year 7 to Year 13 when appropriate. Yr 11 PSHE is delivered solely in tutorial time by tutors with resources and content provided by the Head of PSHE. Appropriate year group assemblies are also delivered in response to student/school needs.
- 4.2. Elements of the RSHE programme are also delivered through the science, physical education, ICT and religious studies curriculum.
- 4.3. The Curriculum in Science at Key Stage 3 introduces sex education in Year 7, addressing the biological aspects of sexual reproduction fertilisation and menstruation. In addition, KS3 students are taught about the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence, how the foetus develops in the uterus and how the growth and reproduction of bacteria can affect health.
- 4.4. At Key Stage 4 this understanding is extended to include an understanding of hormonal control in the menstrual cycle, methods of contraception and how biological sex is determined by genetics in humans.
- 4.5. Materials used in schools are prepared in accordance with the PSHE Association Key Themes and Guidance framework and the law. This is also in consultation with the School Nursing Service and the Local Authority's PSHE & Drug Education Consultant (Appendix 1).
- 4.6. Care is taken to ensure that students are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age and cultural background of the students. The school recognises the need to begin with students' own experiences, beliefs and values and, therefore, places a high importance on creating a supportive and secure atmosphere where they can develop the confidence needed to talk, listen and think about sex and relationships. In order to do this, teachers work within the current Code of Conduct within Teacher Standards (Department for Education (DfE)), which states that teachers must not undermine certain values, including "mutual respect" and "tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs".
- 4.7. During lessons teachers:
 - establish ground rules with students;
 - emphasise the importance of mutual respect;
 - require no open personal disclosures in a class setting;
 - use distancing techniques;
 - encourage reflection.
- 4.8. The RSHE curriculum focuses on the importance of love, care and responsibilities as well as sex. The school provides students with information about different types of contraception, safe sex, the support available in school (e.g. School Nurse) and how they can access other local sources of further advice and treatment. They are made aware of personal responsibility and the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood. The arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure (including peer pressure) and other risk-taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking, vaping and alcohol are presented to students. They are taught how to look after their own physical and mental well-being.

4.9. Through RSHE the school addresses:

- **Attitudes and values:** Students are helped to examine their own and other people's attitudes and values, particularly related to sexual matters, and to respect the rights of others to their own opinions. RSHE helps students to develop a good self-image and high self-esteem, responsibility and the ability to make informed decisions. The role of sex in the media and the difference between sex, gender identity and sexual orientation is also discussed.
- **Personal and Social skills:** RSHE encourages the acquisition of skills so that students' relationships with others may be positive, fulfilling, consensual and respectful. It helps them explore how to be themselves in terms of beliefs, culture and traditions and to respect others. It provides opportunities to develop communication, assertiveness and negotiation skills within a range of different situations and recognise opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle and highlight the issues of being online. They are taught how to recognise and reduce risk, to understand consent and recognise bullying and abuse in all its forms, how to respond and how to seek help.
- **Knowledge and Understanding:** RSHE provides information on puberty, personal safety, friendship and love, family life and relationships, gender identity and sexuality issues, conception and birth processes, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, prejudice and stereotyping and sex and the law including online/social media activity. Students are also taught the risks associated with Female Genital Mutilation, the consequences of teenage pregnancy, child sexual exploitation, issues arising from watching pornography, abortion and the range of beliefs and opinions about it, infertility and the options open to people who are not able to conceive and where to access help in and out of school.
- The school exercises sensitivity and tolerance towards the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of our students and parents with regard to religion, sexuality, sexual orientation and the legislation of same sex marriage.

5. Inclusion and equalities

5.1. We ensure that we do our best to meet the needs of all students, taking account of the Equality Act 2010 and the need to be mindful and inclusive of the following:

- Sexuality / sexual orientation (avoiding heteronormative assumptions and attitudes);
- Gender identity;
- Home background (e.g. different family make-up);
- Ethnicity;
- Gender;
- Special educational needs and disability.

6. Confidentiality

6.1. We ensure that ground rules are established before RSHE lessons are delivered and that students are reminded not to discuss personal experiences and issues in class by depersonalising statements. Case studies and role-play are used where possible to enable students to explore issues safely.

- 6.2. Students are informed that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, but they are reassured that their best interests will be maintained and that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first and then supported as appropriate.
- 6.3. Students are encouraged to talk to their parents or carers and if required give them the support to do so.
- 6.4. Visitors to the classroom are aware of our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and what to do in an event of a disclosure.
- 6.5. Students are made aware of how to access confidential information and support after the lesson, should they need it. This information is included in the students' work booklet or on PowerPoint slides for reference.
- 6.6. The law allows health professionals such as the School Nurses to see, and in some circumstances, to treat young people confidentially and part of this process can include counselling and discussion about talking to parents. The criteria for making such a decision are based on the ['Fraser guidelines'](#).
- 6.7. If a student discloses something of a personal nature, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be consulted. The DSL may seek appropriate external agency advice, decide whether parents/carers need to be informed, and keep the student/s informed about how the disclosure is being treated and who will have access to the information. If necessary, outside agencies (e.g., social care /police) will be contacted if the student/s is at risk of significant harm or has been a victim of child abuse following the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

7. Parents

- 7.1. **The right to withdraw from sex education (commonly referred to as the right to withdraw)** states that parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of the statutory RSHE education, however the hope is that all students will participate. The school acknowledges that, under section 405 of the Education Act 1996, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the RSHE programme except for that part which occurs in the National Science Curriculum.
- 7.2. The statutory guidance from the Department of Education states that the school should respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should arrange to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms. This process is the same for pupils with SEND. However, there may be exceptional circumstances where the Headteacher may want to take a pupil's specific needs arising from their SEND into account when making this decision.
- 7.3. Parents wishing to withdraw their child/ren from PHSE lessons when RSHE is being considered are asked to contact the Headteacher in writing. Parents are written to annually to explain their right to withdraw (see Appendix 3).
- 7.4. Parents need to be aware, however, that RSHE can occur at any time if it arises naturally from class discussion.

- 7.5. The DfE now offer a standard pack of information for parents who withdraw their child/ren from RSHE. These will be provided to parents on request.
- 7.6. Parents and carers have an important role in RSHE by instilling values, providing a framework for relationships, and arranging structures for support. This RSHE policy is made available to parents online via the school website.
- 7.7. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 8.1 The Head of PSHE will monitor this policy by;
- regularly reviewing all schemes of work on a regular basis to assess the content and to check its content is in line with DfE guidance;
 - requesting that all staff teaching any part of this programme review the content and delivery.
 - listening to student and parental feedback.
- 8.2 The outcomes of this evaluation are used to inform future amendments to the teaching programme and any staff training and development needs.
- 8.3 The content of all outside agencies' presentations is evaluated to ensure that it is in line with this policy and DfE guidance.

Appendix 1 : Outside Agencies

The school is supported by the following agencies:

Who	Nature of provision
School Nursing Service	Years 7 – 10 programme support in class during RSHE lessons as well as age-appropriate assemblies and workshops for Y7 – Y13
Outside Agencies Avon and Somerset Police - TOPAZ Just Like Us TENDER Project 28 Bath Mind Off The Record Smashed	Outside agencies are approached by the PSHE lead on behalf of the school to inform Years 7-13 on age-appropriate content based on topics such as sex education, drug education, alcohol, bullying, students mental and physical health and gender and sexuality.
PSHE & Drug Education Consultant (Local Authority advisor)	Support and Guidance for materials and approaches to teaching.

Appendix 2: Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum Matrix

Year 7	Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)	Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing (Health)
Puberty	Key facts about puberty, the changing adolescent body and menstrual wellbeing. The main changes, which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health. To consider the differences between a child and an adult.	
Personal Hygiene		About personal hygiene, germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread, treatment and prevention of infection, and about antibiotics. About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including healthy eating and regular check-ups at the dentist.
Peer Pressure		The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including trust, honesty, respects, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, management of conflict and resilience in situations. How to evaluate when something they do or are involved in has a positive or negative effect on their own or others mental health.
Alcohol and The Law		Look at the legal ages of buying alcohol and taking part in other activities alongside the differences between childhood and adulthood. Discussions on vaping, smoking and alcohol.
Healthy Relationships		How to determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy; judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe and how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed.
Diversity and Equality		Understanding that relationships affect everything we do in our lives and that relationship skills have to be learned and practised. Understanding that relationships can cause strong feelings and emotions.
Physical and Health and Fitness		Know what a healthy lifestyle is and about the positive associations between physical activity and promotion of mental wellbeing.

Year 8	Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)	Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing (Health)
First Aid		Basic treatment for common injuries; shock, nose bleeds, breaks and what to do should they come across the scene of an accident. Life-saving skills, including how to administer CPR. The purpose of defibrillators and when one might be needed. Students know where the defibrillators are in school.
Healthy Lifestyles Physical and Mental Health		Students look at what makes a healthy lifestyle; identifying healthy and unhealthy aspects of living and how it can harm our health. Considers the idea that everyone 'has mental health' which affects us positively and negatively at different times of our lives. Focus on barriers to good mental health and support networks. Students also look at the laws in relation to extremism and radicalisation this year.
RSE	Students understand the terms 'sex', 'sexuality', gender and 'relationships'. They consider the definition of biological sex, gender, and sexuality with a focus on how sexuality forms part of our identity and issues based on sexual orientation. Look at gender and gender 'roles'. This includes different (non-sexual) relationships. To understand feelings and influences on all relationships. They know the characteristics of positive and healthy relationships (in all contexts including online). They learn how to deal appropriately with emotions regarding	

	different relationships and assess and are aware of the consequences of their decisions.	
Drugs Education		Students learn the facts about the harms of smoking tobacco, the benefits of quitting and how to access support. Students discuss using Puff Bars/Vapes which are more commonly used by young people. Students focus on the physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption in adulthood and society. Discussion on vapes as a 'new' factor in children and young people's lives.
Peer on Peer Abuse TOPAZ Outside Agency. Age-appropriate delivery.	Students learn about their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities on-line. About on-line risks, not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further, the impact of viewing harmful content, that sharing and viewing indecent images of children is a criminal offence, which carries severe penalties including jail. Students also learn about County Lines and how to spot signs of coercion for themselves but also friends.	

Year 9	Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)	Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing (Health)
Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco		The facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use, and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions. The law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances. The physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood. The physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency. Awareness of the dangers of drugs, which are prescribed but still present serious health risks. The facts about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer), the benefits of quitting and how to access support to do so. Students are made aware of vapes, puff bars and nitrous oxide (balloons) and the harm it can do.
RSE	Students focus on a sexuality timeline which focuses on what happens to their bodies and minds as they develop from adolescence to adulthood. Based on this they discuss how to recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships, which include mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex and friendship. To be aware of both the legal and emotional aspects of sexual relationships, to consider healthy relationships and look at consent. Students also look at film, TV, and social media with a focus on healthy and unhealthy, realistic and unrealistic relationships portrayed in the media. They identify and manage sexual pressure, including peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others. That they have a choice to delay sex. To be well informed about STI's and how to prevent, test and treat them. Students also consider access to different forms of contraception to protect against pregnancy as well as addressing misconceptions about pregnancy and where to gain support and advice.	
Body Image		To explore the ever-changing impact of social media on our young people; managing their expectations of bodies that they see online or in the media. The similarities and differences between the online world and the physical world including the impact of unhealthy and/or obsessive comparison with others online.
Peer on Peer Abuse / Healthy Relationships	Focus on healthy relationships and spotting the signs of unhealthy relationships including coercion, sexual abuse and abusive behaviours. A group of students are used to create an assembly to pass on the information they learn	

	about through the Tender Workshop (outside agency support).	
TOPAZ Outside Agency. Age appropriate delivery.	Students learn about their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities on-line. About on-line risks, not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further, the impact of viewing harmful content, that sharing and viewing indecent images of children is a criminal offence, which carries severe penalties including jail. They focus on County Lines and online safety and how to avoid dangerous situations and who to contact in the event that they need help.	

Year 10	Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)	Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing (Health)
Body Image		Similarities and differences between the online world and the physical world including the impact of unhealthy or obsessive comparisons to others online (including unrealistic expectations for body image). To explore body positivity. How information is generated, collected, shared and used online.
RSE	Students recap their knowledge and understanding on previous years (concepts of the law, consent, coercion, sexuality, protection from all STI's, healthy and unhealthy relationships, contraception). Students know that all aspects of health can be affected by the choices they make. Students learn about making healthy and informed decisions about their current and future relationships. The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available. Choices around pregnancy, where to get access to confidential sexual and reproductive advice and treatment. It is important to know what the law says about RSE as well as safeguarding issues relating to protecting themselves and pupils are made aware of relevant legal provisions in relation to marriage, consent, violence, pornography, abortion and FGM. Students focus specifically on film, TV and social media representations of relationships including a focus on healthy / unhealthy and realistic / unrealistic relationships portrayed online. There is a specific focus on pornography in Year 10 because representations of relationships are not based on mutual respect or consent and often viewing content can lead to misleading ideals on what relationships look like. As well as an increase in violent relationships if people watch high levels of pornography at an early age. Discussions on sexual harassment in all its forms; verbal and physical in an age-appropriate way.	
Mental and Emotional Health		To consider the term 'healthy'. Is healthy just physical? Consider if our happiness is purely linked to us or our connections with others with an emphasis on spotting early signs of mental wellbeing concerns.
Mental Wellbeing		Focus on types of mental ill health and tackle the stigma of mental health issues. Students learn how to recognise early signs of mental wellbeing concerns in both themselves and others. To learn how to access relevant support for emotional and mental health services.
Equality and Diversity		To consider the Equality Act 2010 and define prejudice and equality. To discuss discrimination based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or disability can cause damage to individuals' health and wellbeing. That in school and the wider society everyone can expect to be treated with respect, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs.

Year 11

In Year 11 students are taught PSHE within their tutorial sessions led by tutors, as well as specific sessions taught by the School Nurse or workshops led by outside agencies on topics relevant to their age group. The following topics are revisited within the tutorial programme: during Terms 1 – 4.

Relationships and Sex Education

- Peer on Peer Abuse in particular reference to consent, coercion and sexual harassment.
- Sexual Health including signposting to clinics and other agencies for help and advice should they require it.

Health and Wellbeing

- Mindfulness
- Self Esteem and having a healthy concept of yourself.
- Managing exam anxiety
- First Aid reminders.
- Illnesses; minimizing risks.
- Looking at life choices; keeping safe and taking risks.
- Alcohol and Drug information.
- Signposting on where to get more help.

Year 12 and 13

In Year 12 and 13 the PSHE curriculum revolves around preparing our young adults for the wider world. Key areas are focused on, with the view to our students moving out of home and becoming more independent. The following topics are included within the Sixth Form curriculum:

Relationships and Sex Education

- Sessions on consent are led by the School Nurse alongside mitigating the risk associated with use of alcohol and drugs and how alcohol and drug use can lead to risky sexual behaviour.
- Where to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment. There is also signage in the Sixth Form Centre.
- Students are taught how to recognize the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships as well as having confirmation of the laws relating to marriage, FGM, sexuality and gender identity.

Health and Wellbeing

- TOPAZ leads sessions on county lines, gangs and online awareness.
 - Online footprint is covered again.
- Up-to-date information related to mitigating risks of alcohol and drug use.
- Wellbeing and mental health
 - Self-care techniques.
 - How to recognize signs of ill health and when to ask for help, where to get help.
 - Exam anxiety and managing stress

In addition to the above, dedicated support can be accessed by students, both in person and online, through the use of our dedicated QR code with links to advice and local agencies, as well as the ability to make appointments with relevant members of school staff.

Appendix 3

An example of the letter to parents regarding RSHE Curriculum.

Dear Parents,

Like you, we want all our children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. As part of Oldfield's Year 7 PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) Programme and in line with national guidelines, students will cover Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) within their PSHE curriculum lessons.

These lessons will be delivered by a team of staff, including our school nurse and other relevant outside agencies. The aim is to provide our students with the information they need to be able to make informed choices on this topic, in a thoughtful and forthright manner. The sessions have been developed using government guidelines and involve various PSHE resources such as role-play scenarios, quizzes and short films in order to inspire discussions.

The topics addressed in Year 7 will concern physical and emotional changes during adolescence and menstruation. Following school closures, we are also including aspects of the Year 6 curriculum as we understand that some of our new students may have not received the full content of the PSHE curriculum last academic year. Your child will have the opportunity to engage in age-appropriate discussion and ask questions. The materials used in schools have been prepared in accordance with the PSHE Association Key Themes and Guidance framework and the law. In our experience, your child will benefit from being a part of these lessons.

We firmly believe that parents and carers have an important role in RSHE, by instilling values, providing a framework for relationships and arranging structures for support. You may want to take the opportunity to talk to your child about the issues that have been discussed at school, such as puberty, relationships and emotional changes. You can look at the themes and subject content of Oldfield School's RSHE policy which is available online via the school website.

In September 2020 new parental rights legislation came into effect with regard to sex education. The guidance now states that *'parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.... There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.'*

If you feel that your child needs to be excused from some or all of the sex education lessons delivered as part of RSHE, you must write to me via enquiries@oldfieldschool.com requesting your child is withdrawn by ****. After this date we will assume that you are giving your consent for this curriculum to be taught to your child. You must, however, be aware that class discussions based on RSHE sometimes occur naturally within lessons. The head teacher will consider your request to excuse your child and discuss it with you as parents, and grant this in all but exceptional circumstances, up until three school terms before your child turns 16. At this age, your child can choose to receive sex education if they would like to, and the school will make arrangements for this to take place in one of those three terms (again, unless there are exceptional circumstances why this would not occur).

If you have any queries about the content of the PSHE programme or resources used, please do not hesitate in contacting me,

via enquires@oldfieldschool.com.

Best wishes,

Christy Axe
Head of PSHE