



DOROTHY  
STRINGER  
SCHOOL

EDUCATION FOR LIFE

# Relationship & Sex Education Policy

DATE APPROVED: Autumn 2022

DATE FOR REVIEW: Autumn 2025

[www.dorothy-stringer.co.uk](http://www.dorothy-stringer.co.uk)

## **Key contacts**

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This policy was written in conjunction with all named people above.

## **Introduction**

Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) is an integral part of our lives from the moments of our conception to our death. It is therefore a crucial aspect of education. At Dorothy Stringer, our belief in 'Education for Life' and particularly the values of Respect and Resilience place a particular emphasis on RSE. It provides an opportunity for meaningful and relevant exploration of what it means to have self-respect and to respect others, regardless of differences in values. It provides an opportunity to consider and practice resilience to engage with sensitive topics and examine the value of resilience in making healthy life choices. Consequently, we focus on all aspects of RSE promoting positive and safe relationships in all aspects of life. Through RSE and PSHE we aim to equip our young people with a toolkit to take with them into adult life.

*The aim of RSE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships. This will help pupils understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed.*

*Effective RSE does not encourage early sexual experimentation. It should teach young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. It enables young people to mature, build their confidence and self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity. Effective RSE also supports people, throughout life, to develop safe, fulfilling and healthy sexual relationships, at the appropriate time.*

DfE July 2019: Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers (Pg 25)

At Dorothy Stringer we work hard to deliver RSE within the guidance outlined in both national and local documentation, whilst making the curriculum relevant to our young people. Teaching encourages students to have regard to the moral considerations, personal safety and the safety of others and values of family life.

Young people learn about relationships and sex from a variety sources: family, friends, media and at school. Learning about RSE is a lifelong journey for everyone. We aim to build on the work started by our primary colleagues in an inclusive, sensitive and age-appropriate way so that young people have the tools to continue their journey in a positive and confident way with an ability to make informed decisions, by giving young people the opportunity to acquire accurate and up to date information, develop skills and positive beliefs, attitudes and values.

In line with recent statutory guidance (DfE July 2019: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education) we include age-appropriate content on female genital mutilation, child sexual exploitation, sexting, pornography, abortion and LGBT education.

## **RSE has three elements**

**Attitude and Values:**

- to learn the value of respect, love and care
- to learn to value and respect ourselves and others
- to develop an understanding of and value diversity regarding, for example, religion, family life, culture, gender identity and sexual orientation
- to develop positive values and a moral framework that will help guide decisions, judgements and behaviour
- to promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles and keeping self-safe
- to be aware of and comfortable with their sexuality.

**Personal and social skills:**

- to learn how to identify and manage emotions confidently and sensitively
- to develop communication skills with peers, school, family and health professionals
- to develop critical thinking, decision-making, negotiation and assertiveness skills
- to develop an understanding of difference and an absence of prejudice
- to develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- to develop the ability to understand the impact of external factors, such as the media, internet, peer group and remain independent decision-makers
- to learn how to assess risk and to develop strategies for keeping safe
- to develop the ability to give and secure help
- to behave responsibly within sexual and personal relationships
- to learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse of self.

**Knowledge and understanding:**

- to learn about and understand the biological facts related to human growth such as puberty, reproduction, conception, pregnancy and birth
- to understand human sexuality, reproduction, genetics, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- to understand how the law applies to sexual relationships
- to learn about contraception, condoms, emergency contraception and abortion
- to learn about the routes of transmission, symptoms and treatment for sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDs
- to be aware of the reasons for and benefits of abstaining from or delaying sexual activity
- to learn about the responsibilities of parenthood
- to understand the possible impact of risk-taking behaviour such as drinking or drug taking on sexual health
- to learn about local and national sources of confidential information, advice and treatment

**Teaching RSE at Dorothy Stringer**

Delivery of RSE is mainly through PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education). This is taught as a discrete subject by a specialist team at Dorothy Stringer and covers a wide range of topics. The PSHE curriculum is delivered through 2 lessons per fortnight in KS3 and 1 lesson a fortnight at KS4. RSE is also delivered through science and small parts in RS, English and drama. RSE is taught in mixed gender and ability groups.

To ensure we meet the needs of all pupils, including our pupils with special educational needs, we have a range of experienced staff delivering the curriculum which include the school's safeguarding officer and a Head of Year. Staff ensure that lessons are appropriate to the needs of students, ensuring high quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised to ensure accessibility. Staff have access to student Educational Health Care Plans as well as other documentation to support students' needs which feed into effective lesson planning. A variety of teaching and learning methods are employed to engage all students at an appropriate level. Ground rules are established within PSHE at the start of the year and are referred to throughout any RSE work. Teaching uses various resources and sources of information to plan a strong, relevant and appropriate programme. Data from sources such as the local Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS) is regularly used to identify areas to be developed and for normative messages to promote positive choices. The curriculum has a flexibility which allows it to respond in a timely manner to emergent issues of concern in society and school when identified and support pastoral care in school by addressing this with students.

Core RSE and DATE (Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education) Programme is a city-wide entitlement for all Year 9 and 10 students. The elements of the core programme will be delivered through PSHE lessons and some form times, and students will be expected to meet certain objectives by the end of the year. With this in mind, it is not permitted for staff to withdraw students from RSE lessons without permission from the Head of PSHE.

The requirement to ensure that children and young people are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately and safely is addressed as part of the wider duty of care. The school e-safety policy helps to ensure safe and appropriate use. As part of the planned e-safety programme delivered through ICT / PSHE and other lessons we cover both the safe use of ICT and new technologies in school and outside school. Please see the school e-safety policy for more information (available on the school website > information > policies).

A brief overview of RSE delivered at Dorothy Stringer School can be seen in the appendices at the end of this document. The PSHE curriculum intent statement is available on the school website (Information > Curricular > Curriculum Intent). The PSHE curriculum maps are available on the school website (Information > Curricular > Curriculum maps). A more detailed PSHE curriculum can be obtained by request from the Head of PSHE. The new curriculum, as outlined in the statutory guidance provided by Department for Education (DFE) issued under section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996, became mandatory from September 2020. RSE at Dorothy Stringer School is compliant with this guidance.

### **Visitors to the classroom**

At times, we have external speakers and visitors come into school to enrich the RSE curriculum. These have included local sexual health clinic workers, Allsorts and Positive Voices. Where outside speakers are used the Head of PSHE will meet the speaker, review all teaching materials and make the speaker aware of the RSE policy of the school prior to the visit. The class teacher will remain present in the room at all times

during a guest speaker's visit. All speakers will have the appropriate DBS checks as required.

### **Other services and access to information – PSHE enhancement**

All students are entitled to RSE provision. Some additional RSE is provided through small group work sessions, with specific and vulnerable students and delivered by trained staff such as our pastoral team, support staff, the PSHE team, and on an individual basis with the school nurse or other outside agencies, such as sexual health nurses. Small group work or individual support is a vital element of meeting the needs of individual students. There may be occasions where RSE for these groups takes place offsite, outside of the school setting, in a suitable venue, such as the Claude Nicol Centre. Parents and carers will always be informed and asked for permission unless it is deemed inappropriate or dangerous to the student to do so, as decided by safeguarding lead.

Throughout lessons, group work and individual work students will be sign posted to the various local and national services as appropriate.

A health drop-in service will be available onsite for all students to access information, advice and guidance on a range of health-related matters. For students in Year 9 and above, the drop-in service can also provide condoms as part of the citywide C Card Scheme as well as pregnancy testing and Chlamydia screening. The drop-in will be staffed by the School Nurse and a Brighton & Hove CC Young People's Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Health (DASH) worker who work under the Dorothy Stringer School Safeguarding Policy. Staff will use the Gillick Test\* to judge capacity in children to consent to medical treatment. They will also use the Fraser Guidelines\*\* in regard to children requesting contraceptive or sexual health advice and treatment.

\* The **Gillick Test** is used to establish whether a child under 16 has the capacity to provide consent to treatment. It is used to determine if children under 16 have sufficient understanding and intelligence to fully understand what is involved in a proposed treatment, including its purpose, nature, likely effects and risks, chances of success and the availability of other options. If a child does not pass the Gillick test, then the consent of a person with parental responsibility (or sometimes the courts) is needed in order to proceed with treatment.

\*\* The '**Fraser Guidelines**' specifically relate to contraception and sexual health. The House of Lords concluded that advice can be given in this situation as long as:

- They have sufficient maturity and intelligence to understand the nature and implications of the proposed treatment
- They cannot be persuaded to tell their parents or to allow the doctor to tell them
- They are very likely to begin or continue having sexual intercourse with or without contraceptive treatment
- Their physical or mental health is likely to suffer unless they receive the advice or treatment
- The advice or treatment is in the young person's best interests.

Health professionals and staff at Dorothy Stringer School will encourage the young person to inform his or her parent(s) or get permission to do so on their behalf. However, if this permission is not given, staff can still give the child advice and

treatment. If the conditions are not all met, however, or there is reason to believe that the child is under pressure to give consent or is being exploited, there would be grounds to break confidentiality.

### **Working with Parents, Carers and stakeholders.**

Parents and carers' support is important to the success of our PSHE programme. Students are encouraged to talk about the RSE curriculum with parents and carers. Our PSHE curriculum, including RSE, is available on the SLG (Stringer Learning Gateway) so that parents and carers can see what content is being delivered.

In line with DfE guidance and changes in the curriculum for September 2020, the school consulted with parents and pupils regarding the delivery of new RSE topics with PSHE.

### **Withdrawal from RSE programme**

Parents and Carers have the right to withdraw their child/children from all or part of the RSE programme, with the exception of those parts that are included in the statutory Science National Curriculum. Any parent or carer wishing to withdraw a student should put their request in writing to the Headteacher and the Head of PSHE. A meeting will then be arranged to discuss these concerns.

Assuming there are no exceptional circumstances, once those discussions have taken place, in accordance with DfE guidelines, the school will respect the parents' request to withdraw the student, up to and until three terms before the student turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education, the school will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education.

Students withdrawn from RSE will carry out other independent PSHE related work in an appropriate area of the school.

### **Confidentiality**

Dorothy Stringer School is committed to acting in the best interest of all the individuals within the school community. RSE should take place in a safe and supportive environment that allows for suitable discussion of potentially sensitive topic matters without embarrassment. Students should also be made aware that we all have different experiences and that mutual respect is essential. Ground rules are established in all PSHE classes and confidentiality and respect are always included.

However, students are made aware that, **teachers cannot guarantee complete confidentiality and should be reminded of this at intervals during PSHE lessons.** Staff have a duty of care to the students they work with and therefore if a student makes a disclosure that causes a concern for the student's or another student's safety then that member of staff will follow the school's Child Protection Policy (see school website > Information > General > School Policies > Dorothy Stringer Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy). Personal disclosures can happen at any time or place. When this happens, the teacher should prioritise the needs of the student.

During lessons, students are regularly encouraged to talk with their parents, carers or other family members about RSE lessons and about their personal relationships. This is especially important if students are having or contemplating having sex.

### **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

This policy is regularly reviewed by the Head of PSHE, the PSHE Line Manager, the PSHE team and other relevant parties to ensure that our students' needs are being met effectively. A variety of monitoring takes place including curriculum learning walks, departmental observations, teacher's reflective practice, departmental CPD meetings and students' consultation.

Evaluation of the outcomes and of the outcomes of the local Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS) informs future planning, resources and appropriate training. The evaluation report of the SAWSS report is available on request from the school.

Training of relevant staff is done in a variety of ways, including, not limited to:

- Local training
- National PSHE courses
- School based INSET as required
- Department training
- Our membership at the local PSHE Consortium



## Appendix 1: PSHE RSE Curriculum

Personal, Social and Health Education Curriculum Overview: RSE				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Establishing an active class agreement for appropriate interaction	Establishing an active class agreement for appropriate interaction	Establishing an active class agreement for appropriate interaction	Establishing an active class agreement for appropriate interaction	Establishing an active class agreement for appropriate interaction
To be revisited regularly	Understanding different relationships we have.	Understanding different relationships we have.	Menopause	Know your body – health checks
Friendship	Family	Healthy relationships	Pros and cons of different contraceptives	STIs – signs, symptoms, treatments and help
Bullying	Friendship	Risk	Identify national and local sexual health services	STIs transmission and sexual behaviour
Physical and Emotional Puberty	Girlfriend/boyfriend relationships	Sexually transmitted infections	Talking about sexual matters	Decision making and sexual activity
Raging Teens	Love	Sexual relationships	Sexual and gender identity	Talking about sex
Recognising feelings	Consent	Consent	Coming out	Sexuality and LGBT
Sexual Harassment	Sexual Harassment and violence	Sexual Harassment and violence	Consent	Consent
Positive self-image	Understanding and dealing with bereavement	Long Acting Reversible Contraception.	Sexual harassment and violence	Sexual harassment and violence
Menstruation	Child Sexual Exploitation	Condom skills		Exploitative and abusive relationships
Female genital mutilation	HIV/Aids – How it is transmitted.	Sexuality		Honour based violence
Identity, Stereotypes and LGBT	Attitudes and prejudice towards HIV/Aids	Internet safety		Forced marriages
Internet safety	Exploring gender and sexuality LGBTQIA+ & homophobia			

## **Appendix 2: Science RSE curriculum**

YEAR 7: Puberty, male/female reproductive organs, menstruation, growth and development of babies.

YEAR 10/11 Topics: AQA Science Syllabus, including hormones, oral contraception and Genetics.

### **References**

- DfE July 2019: Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers. See [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- SRE Guidance 2000 DFE
- Sample framework LEA guidance
- Sexuality LEA Guidance
- OFSTED Guidance Learning Outcome
- KS3/4 National Guidance 2000
- National Curriculum
- Visitor Guidelines
- National Healthy Schools Standards
- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
- Fraser Guidelines for Health Professionals
- Working with Parents and carers LEA Guidance
- A Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education Programme of Study, KS1-4 for Brighton and Hove Schools, 2014
- Relationship and Sex Education Guidance 2015 Brighton and Hove LA

Links to other Policies - see [School Policies \(dorothy-stringer.co.uk\)](http://dorothy-stringer.co.uk)

Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy  
E-safety