Relationships and Sex Education Policy

The Beech House School

Approved by:	Camilla McInnes
Last reviewed on:	June 2025
Next review due by:	June 2026

1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- Bespoke curriculum content relevant to

2. Statutory requirements

As an independent school, we provide RSE to all pupils as per the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

In teaching RSE, we have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996 (updated in 2021).

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and home staff/social workers. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a working group of staff or working group will pull together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance

2. Staff consultation – all school staff have been given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations

3. Pupil consultation – in accordance with pupil interests and gaps in knowledge.

4. Ratification – the completed policy was shared with governors.

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set in advance but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary taking into account the requirements of the individual.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with key individuals, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner, so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

We are also looking at sourcing a trained health professional to deliver stand-alone sex education sessions.

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

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

These areas of learning are taught within the context their individual circumstance, taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their own narratives as all our pupils are looked after pupils.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board has delegated the approval of this policy to the Head Teacher.

7.2 The Assistant Head

The Assistant Head is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from (non-statutory / non-science) components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the (non-statutory / non-science) components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Assistant Head Teacher

RSE is taught by Julia Davis and Sally Williams (Teachers) and Sue Telkamp (Teaching Assistant) for the year 2022-23.

7.4 Pupils

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

8. Parents' and/ or social workers right to withdraw

Social workers and in some case parents have the right to withdraw their children from (non-statutory / non-science) components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and sent to the Assistant Headteacher using the attached form.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Assistant Headteacher will discuss the request with parents/social worker and take appropriate action such as ensuring appropriate alternative education.

9. Training

The Assistant Head has recommended that all staff who deliver RSE undertake Brook Learn Training or National College as part of our continuing professional development calendar.

From time to time, we will have visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by ALL STAFF, however subject responsibilities are delegated throughout the year. Subject content and relevance will be revisited as and when necessary, according to our cohort.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Head. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Headteacher.