

# RSE Policy Framework



<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Education Quality Standards Impact Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>September 2024</b>
<b>Next review date:</b>	<b>September 2027</b>
<b>Adopted by school:</b>	<b>Headteacher and governors</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>April 2025</b>

# Contents

1. Aims.....	2
2. Statutory requirements .....	3
3. Policy development .....	3
4. Definition .....	3
5. Roles and responsibilities .....	4
The board of trustees .....	4
Local governing bodies.....	4
The headteacher .....	4
Staff .....	4
Pupils .....	4
6. Curriculum .....	4
7. Delivery of RSE .....	5
8. Inclusivity .....	6
Use of resources .....	6
9. Use of external organisations and materials – trust statement .....	6
10. Parents’ right to withdraw .....	7
11. Training.....	7
12. Monitoring arrangements .....	8
13. Appendix 1: Curriculum map .....	9
14. Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know .....	13
15. Appendix 3: Parent/carer form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE .....	15

This policy framework sets out the approach to relationships and sex education (RSE) across ODST. The appendices have been adapted to reflect the circumstances in our school.

## 1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) in our trust 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

## 2. Statutory requirements

All ODST primary schools, must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#). This legislation also requires us to provide RSE to all pupils at our middle school (Y5–Y8).

ODST schools follow the National Curriculum. This includes the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum at primary level.

In teaching RSE, we're required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (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

As a school within ODST, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

## 3. Policy development

This ODST policy framework is intended to provide information about the RSE curriculum and delivery for all ODST schools. Each school is responsible for developing their own policy and for providing the correct appendices for all stakeholders.

For our school, the 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 team pulled together all relevant information including relevant up to date national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – staff across our school were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents/carers and any interested stakeholders were invited to comment on the policy
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with the Local Governing Body for ratification

## 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. Roles and responsibilities

The Scheme of Delegation

### **The board of trustees**

The board of trustees, delegated to the Education Quality Standards and Impact Committee, will approve the RSE policy framework, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation through local governing bodies.

### **Local governing bodies**

Local governing bodies are responsible for supporting the implementation of the policy at their school and reporting issues to the board of trustees if they occur.

### **The headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across their school, for making sure that resources and materials are shared with parents and carers, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 10).

### **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/carers wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory 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 headteacher.

### **Pupils**

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

## 6. Curriculum

Our RSE curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents/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.

We will share any curriculum resources and materials with parents and carers upon request.

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

## 7. Delivery of RSE

We teach RSE as part of our Personal, Social, Health Education curriculum and we use the Jigsaw Programme to deliver this. Jigsaw offers us a comprehensive, carefully thought-through Scheme of Work which brings consistency and progression to our children’s learning in this vital curriculum area. Jigsaw covers all areas of PSHE for the primary phase including statutory Relationships and Health Education.

The table below gives the learning theme of each of the six Puzzles (units) and these are taught across the school; the learning deepens and broadens every year.

Term	Jigsaw Puzzle (Unit)	Puzzle (Unit)
Autumn 1	Being Me in My World	Includes understanding my own identity and how I fit well in the class, school and global community. Jigsaw Charter established
Autumn 2	Celebrating Difference	Includes anti-bullying (cyber and homophobic bullying included) and understanding
Spring 1	Dreams and Goals	Includes goal setting, aspirations, who do I want to become and what would I like to do for work and to contribute to society
Spring 2	Healthy Me	Includes drugs and alcohol education, self-esteem and confidence as well as healthy lifestyle choices, sleep, nutrition, rest and exercise
Summer 1	Relationships	Includes understanding friendship, family and other relationships, conflict resolution and communication skills, bereavement and loss
Summer 2	Changing Me	Includes Relationships and Sex Education in the context of coping positively with change

In our primary school, relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born

In our primary school, we have decided to follow the sequenced units of work in the Jigsaw “Changing Me” puzzle but teach the alternative lesson 2 in Y4 to avoid introducing sex education until Y5.

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendix 1

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures)

along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

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

## 8. Inclusivity

ODST schools will teach about these topics in a manner that:

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

They 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

### Use of resources

Our schools will consider whether any resources they plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our 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

## 9. Use of external organisations and materials – trust statement

Across our trust, we delegate responsibility for making sure that an agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality to each school.

Schools remain responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used don't undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Our schools **will**:

- Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
  - Are age-appropriate
  - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
  - 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 they 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 that the agency may use
  - Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow usual safeguarding procedures for these people
  - Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to the school, 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
  - Share any external materials with parents and carers

Our schools **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

## 10. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in the Appendix of this policy and addressed to the headteacher of the school.

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

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher of the school.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents/carers and take appropriate action.

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

## 11. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our school's continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher may also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

## 12. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Local Governing Body through the usual monitoring programme agreed. Insert details of monitoring arrangements, such as planning scrutiny, learning walks, etc.

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

This policy framework will be reviewed by the EQSI committee of the trust board every 3 years. At every review, the school's policy will be approved by LGB.

# 13. Appendix 1: Curriculum map

## Relationships and sex education curriculum map

	EYFS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
<b>Summer Term 1 Relationships</b>	Children are introduced to the key relationships in their lives. They learn about families and the different roles people can have in a family. They explore the friendships they have and what makes a good friend. They are introduced to simple strategies they can use to mend friendships. The children also practise Jigsaw’s Calm Me and how they can use this when feeling upset or angry.	Children’s breadth of relationships is widened to include people they may find in their school community. They consider their own significant relationships (family, friends and school community) and why these are special and important. As part of the lessons on healthy and safe relationships, children learn that touch can be used in kind and unkind ways. This supports later work on safeguarding. Pupils also consider their own personal attributes as a friend, family member and as part of a community, and	Learning about family relationships widens to include roles and responsibilities in a family and the importance of cooperation, appreciation and trust. Friendships are also revisited with a focus on falling out and mending friendships. This becomes more formalised and the children learn and practise two different strategies for conflict resolution (Solve it together and Mending Friendships). Children consider the importance of trust in relationships and what this feels like. They also learn about two types of secret, and why ‘worry secrets’ should always be shared with	In this Puzzle, children revisit family relationships and identify the different expectations and roles that exist within the family home. They identify why stereotypes can be unfair and may not be accurate, e.g. Mum is the carer, Dad goes to work. They also look at careers and why stereotypes can be unfair in this context. They learn that families should be founded on love, respect, appreciation, trust and co-operation. Children are reminded about the Solve it together technique for negotiating conflict situations and the	Learning in this year group starts focussing on the emotional aspects of relationships and friendships. With this in mind, children explore jealousy and loss/ bereavement. They identify the emotions associated with these relationship changes, the possible reasons for the change and strategies for coping with the change. The children learn that change is a natural in relationships and they will experience (or may have already experienced) some of these changes. Children revisit skills of negotiation particularly to help manage a change in a relationship. They	Children learn about the importance of self esteem and ways this can be boosted. This is important in an online context as well as offline, as mental health can be damaged by excessive comparison with others. This leads onto a series of lessons that allow the children to investigate and reflect upon a variety of positive and negative online/social media contexts including gaming and social networking. They learn about age-limits and also age appropriateness. Within these lessons, children are taught the SMARRT internet safety rules and they apply these in different situations. Risk, pressure and influences are revisited	In this Puzzle, the children learn more about mental health and how to take care of their own mental wellbeing. They explore the grief cycle and its various stages, and discuss the different causes of grief and loss. The children learn about people who can try to control them or have power over them. They investigate online safety, learning how to judge if something is safe and helpful, as well as talking about communicating with friends and family in a positive and safe way.

	EYFS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
		are encouraged to use these.	a trusted adult. Children reflect upon different types of physical contact in relationships, which are acceptable and which ones are not. They practise strategies for being assertive when someone is hurting them or being unkind. The children also learn about people who can help them if they are worried or scared	concept of a win-win outcome is introduced. Online relationships through gaming and apps are explored and children are introduced to some rules for staying safe online. Children also learn that they are part of a global community and they are connected to others they don't know in many ways, e.g. through global trade. They investigate the wants and needs of other children who are less fortunate and compare these with their own. Children's universal rights are also revisited.	also learn that sometimes it is better if relationships end, especially if they are causing negative feelings or they are unsafe. Children are taught that relationship endings can be amicable.	with a focus on the physical and emotional aspects of identifying when something online or in social media feels uncomfortable or unsafe. Children are taught about grooming and how people online can pretend to be whoever they want. Rights, responsibilities and respect are revisited with an angle on technology use. Screen time is also discussed and children find ways to reduce their own screen time. This Puzzle aims to help children to be more discerning when viewing anything online or on social media.	

	EYFS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
<b>Summer Term 2 Changing Me</b>	Children are encouraged to think about how they have changed from being a baby and what may change for them in the future. They consolidate the names and functions of some of the main parts of the body and discuss how these have changed. They learn that our bodies change in lots of different ways as we get older. Children understand that change can bring about positive and negative feelings, and that sharing these can help. They also consider the role that memories can have in managing change.	Children are introduced to life cycles, e.g. that of a frog and identify the different stages. They compare this with a human life cycle and look at simple changes from baby to adult, e.g. getting taller, learning to walk, etc. They discuss how they have changed so far and that people grow up at different rates. As part of a school's safeguarding duty, pupils are taught the correct words for private parts of the body (those kept private by underwear: vagina, anus, penis, testicles, vulva). They are also taught that nobody has the right to hurt these parts of the body. Change is discussed as a natural and normal part of getting older	In this Puzzle, children compare different life cycles in nature, including that of humans. They reflect on the changes that occur (not including puberty) between baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult and old age. Within this, children also discuss how independence, freedoms and responsibility can increase with age. As part of a school's safeguarding duty, pupils are re-taught the correct words for private parts of the body (those kept private by underwear: vagina, anus, penis, testicle, vulva). They are also reminded that nobody has the right to hurt these parts of the body, including a lesson on inappropriate touch and assertiveness. Children practise a range of strategies for managing feelings	This Puzzle begins learning about babies and what they need to grow and develop including parenting. Children are taught that it is usually the female that carries the baby in nature. This leads onto lessons where puberty is introduced. Children first look at the outside body changes in males and females. They learn that puberty is a natural part of growing up and that it is a process for getting their bodies ready to make a baby when grown-up. Inside body changes are also taught. Children learn that females have eggs (ova) in their ovaries and these are released monthly. If unfertilised by a male's sperm, it	In this Puzzle, bodily changes at puberty are revisited with some additional vocabulary, particularly around menstruation. Sanitary health is taught, including introducing pupils to different sanitary and personal hygiene products. Conception and sexual intercourse are introduced in simple terms so the children understand that a baby is formed by the joining of an ovum and sperm. They also learn that the ovum and sperm carry genetic information that carry personal characteristics. The Puzzle ends by looking at the feelings associated with change and how to manage these. Children are introduced to Jigsaw's Circle of change model as a strategy for managing future changes.	In this Puzzle, the children revisit self esteem, self-image and body image. They learn that we all have perceptions about ourselves and others, and these may be right or wrong. They also reflect on how social media and the media can promote unhelpful comparison and how to manage this. Puberty is revisited in further detail, explaining bodily changes in males and females. Sexual intercourse is explained in slightly more detail than in the previous year. Children are encouraged to ask questions and seek clarification about anything they don't understand. Further details about pregnancy are introduced including some facts about the development of the foetus and some simple explanation about conception, e.g. IVF. Children learn that having a baby is a personal choice. Details of	In this Puzzle, the children learn about puberty in boys and girls and the changes that will happen; they reflect on how they feel about these changes. The children also learn about childbirth and the stages of development of a baby, starting at conception. They explore what it means to be being physically attracted to someone and the effect this can have upon the relationship. They learn about different relationships and the importance of mutual respect and not pressuring/being pressured into doing something that they don't want to. The children also learn about self-esteem, why it is important and ways to develop it. Finally, they look at the transition to secondary school (or next class) and what they are looking forward to/are

	EYFS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
		<p>which can bring about happy and sad feelings. Children practise a range of skills to help manage their feelings and learn how to access help if they are worried about change, or if someone is hurting them.</p>	<p>and emotions. They are also taught where they can get help if worried or frightened. Change is taught as a natural and normal part of growing up and the range of emotions that can occur with change are explored and discussed.</p>	<p>passes out of the body as a period. Sexual intercourse and the birth of the baby are not taught in this year group. Children discuss how they feel about puberty and growing up and there are opportunities for them to seek reassurance if anything is worrying them.</p>		<p>contraceptive options and methods are not taught as this is not age appropriate. Reasons why people choose to be in a romantic relationship and choose to have a baby are also explored. Children look at what becoming a teenager means for them with an increase in freedom, rights and responsibilities. They also consider the perceptions that surround teenagers and reflect whether they are always accurate, e.g. teenagers are always moody; all teenagers have a boyfriend/girlfriend, etc.</p>	<p>worried about and how they can prepare themselves mentally.</p>

## 14. Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability</li> <li>• The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other’s lives</li> <li>• That others’ families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children’s families are also characterised by love and care</li> <li>• That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children’s security as they grow up</li> <li>• That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</li> <li>• How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed</li> </ul>
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</li> <li>• The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</li> <li>• That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</li> <li>• That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right</li> <li>• How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed</li> </ul>
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs</li> <li>• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• The conventions of courtesy and manners</li> <li>• The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</li> <li>• That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help</li> <li>• What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</li> <li>• The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</li> </ul>
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not</li> <li>• That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous</li> <li>• The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them</li> <li>• How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met</li> <li>• How information and data is shared and used online</li> </ul>
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</li> <li>• About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe</li> <li>• That each person’s body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact</li> <li>• How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know</li> <li>• How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult</li> <li>• How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard</li> <li>• How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so</li> <li>• Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources</li> </ul>

## 15. Appendix 3: Parent/carer form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	Include notes from discussions with parents and agreed actions taken. Eg: Joe Bloggs will be taking part in all relationships lessons and during the sex education lessons, he will be working independently on a project in the Year 5 classroom