

Relationships and sex education policy

Millbay Academy



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Policy Owner	Cass Bisco
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Next Review (MUST be Annual Review)	June 2024

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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

2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

In teaching RSE, we are 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](#).

At Millbay Academy we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. 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 and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

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 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, 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 education (PSHE) curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum.

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional. Our school provider is Livewell South West.

The main aims of the Relationships and Sex Education programme are primarily to appreciate the values of family life and to promote the benefits of family life. Students are encouraged to recognise the responsibilities of parenthood and to respect themselves and others. Students are educated in the importance of behaving responsibly and respectfully in sexual matters. Moral and ethical issues are presented and discussed.

The programme looks at the biology of sexual maturation, focusing on the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty as well as the related issues of personal hygiene. Students receive information about sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS and the importance of practising safe sex. Students receive information about contraception and its importance in guarding against unwanted pregnancy and

sexually transmitted infections. The programme covers the legal implications of sexual behaviour. Students are made aware of people and places they can go to for appropriate help or advice.

The PSHE Association's [Planning Framework for Pupils With SEND Key Stages 1-4](#) is used to differentiate lesson materials within sessions and pitch material at an appropriate level.

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

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

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).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board will hold the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

7.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory 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 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.

Staff responsible for teaching RSE in our Secondary School are:

Cassandra Bisco (PSHE Lead)

Lottie Slater

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' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory 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 using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

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

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

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE 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 RSE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Cassandra Bisco through:

Learning walks, planning scrutinies and pupil voice.

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

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE Lead, Cass Bisco, annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Relationships and sex education curriculum map

YEAR GROUP	PSHE ASSOCIATION COVERAGE	EXAMPLE RESOURCES
Year 7	<p>H34. strategies to manage the physical and mental changes that are a typical part of growing up, including puberty and menstrual wellbeing</p> <p>R1. about different types of relationships, including those within families, friendships, romantic or intimate relationships and the factors that can affect them</p> <p>R2. indicators of positive, healthy relationships and unhealthy relationships, including online</p> <p>R3. about the similarities, differences and diversity among people of different race, culture, ability, sex, gender identity, age and sexual orientation</p> <p>R4. the difference between biological sex, gender identity and sexual orientation</p> <p>R5. to recognise that sexual attraction and sexuality are diverse</p> <p>R6. that marriage is a legal, social and emotional commitment that should be entered into freely, and never forced upon someone through threat or coercion</p> <p>R7. how the media portrays relationships and the potential impact of this on people's expectations of relationships</p>	<p>Example KS3 Resource</p>
Year 8	<p>H34. strategies to manage the physical and mental changes that are a typical part of growing up, including puberty and menstrual wellbeing</p> <p>R1. about different types of relationships, including those within families, friendships, romantic or intimate relationships and the factors that can affect them</p> <p>R2. indicators of positive, healthy relationships and unhealthy relationships, including online</p> <p>R3. about the similarities, differences and diversity among people of different race, culture, ability, sex, gender identity, age and sexual orientation</p> <p>R4. the difference between biological sex, gender identity and sexual orientation</p> <p>R5. to recognise that sexual attraction and sexuality are diverse</p> <p>R6. that marriage is a legal, social and emotional commitment that should be entered into freely, and never forced upon someone through threat or coercion</p> <p>R7. how the media portrays relationships and the potential impact of this on people's expectations of relationships</p>	<p>Example KS3 Resource 1</p> <p>Example KS3 Resource 2</p> <p>Example KS3 Resource 3</p>

	R8. that the portrayal of sex in the media and social media (including pornography) can affect people's expectations of relationships and sex	
Year 9	<p>H14. about the health services available to people; strategies to become a confident user of the NHS and other health services; to overcome potential concerns or barriers to seeking help</p> <p>H26. the different types of intimacy — including online — and their potential emotional and physical consequences (both positive and negative)</p> <p>H27. about specific STIs, their treatment and how to reduce the risk of transmission</p> <p>H28. how to respond if someone has, or may have, an STI (including ways to access sexual health services)</p> <p>H29. to overcome barriers, (including embarrassment, myths and misconceptions) about sexual health and the use of sexual health services</p> <p>H30. about healthy pregnancy and how lifestyle choices affect a developing foetus</p> <p>H31. that fertility can vary in all people, changes over time (including menopause) and can be affected by STIs and other lifestyle factors</p> <p>H32. about the possibility of miscarriage and support available to people who are not able to conceive or maintain a pregnancy</p> <p>H33. about choices and support available in the event of an unplanned pregnancy, and how to access appropriate help and advice</p> <p>H35. about the purpose, importance and different forms of contraception; how and where to access contraception and advice (see also Relationships)</p> <p>H36. that certain infections can be spread through sexual activity and that barrier contraceptives offer some protection against certain sexually transmitted infections (STIs)</p> <p>R1. the characteristics and benefits of strong, positive relationships, including mutual support, trust, respect and equality</p>	Example Y9 Resource 1
Year 10 & 11	<p>R1. the characteristics and benefits of strong, positive relationships, including mutual support, trust, respect and equality</p> <p>R2. the role of pleasure in intimate relationships, including orgasms</p> <p>R3. to respond appropriately to indicators of unhealthy relationships, including seeking help where necessary</p> <p>R4. the importance of stable, committed relationships, including the rights and protections provided within legally recognised marriages and civil partnerships and the legal status of other long-term relationships</p> <p>R5. the legal rights, responsibilities and protections provided by the Equality Act 2010</p>	Example KS4 Resource 1 Example KS4 Resource 2

	<p>R6. about diversity in romantic and sexual attraction and developing sexuality, including sources of support and reassurance and how to access them</p> <p>R7. strategies to access reliable, accurate and appropriate advice and support with relationships, and to assist others to access it when needed</p> <p>R8. to understand the potential impact of the portrayal of sex in pornography and other media, including on sexual attitudes, expectations and behaviour</p> <p>R10. to understand a variety of faith and cultural practices and beliefs concerning relationships and sexual activity; to respect the role these might play in relationship values</p> <p>R11. strategies to manage the strong emotions associated with the different stages of relationships</p> <p>R12. to safely and responsibly manage changes in personal relationships including the ending of relationships</p> <p>R13. ways to manage grief about changing relationships including the impact of separation, divorce and bereavement; sources of support and how to access them</p> <p>R14. the opportunities and potential risks of establishing and conducting relationships online, and strategies to manage the risks</p> <p>R15. the legal and ethical responsibilities people have in relation to online aspects of relationships</p> <p>R16. to recognise unwanted attention (such as harassment and stalking including online), ways to respond and how to seek help</p> <p>R17. ways to access information and support for relationships including those experiencing difficulties</p> <p>R18. about the concept of consent in maturing relationships</p> <p>R19. about the impact of attitudes towards sexual assault and to challenge victimblaming, including when abuse occurs online</p> <p>R20. to recognise the impact of drugs and alcohol on choices and sexual behaviour</p>	
Year 10 & 11	<p>R21. the skills to assess their readiness for sex, including sexual activity online, as an individual and within a couple</p> <p>R22. to evaluate different motivations and contexts in which sexual images are shared, and possible legal, emotional and social consequences</p> <p>R23. how to choose and access appropriate contraception (including emergency contraception) and negotiate contraception use with a partner</p> <p>R24. the physical and emotional responses people may have to unintended pregnancy; the different options available; whom to talk to for accurate, impartial advice and support</p> <p>R25. the importance of parenting skills and qualities for family life, the implications of young parenthood and services that offer support for new parents and families</p> <p>R26. the reasons why people choose to adopt/foster children</p>	

	<p>R27. about the current legal position on abortion and the range of beliefs and opinions about it</p> <p>R28. to recognise when others are using manipulation, persuasion or coercion and how to respond</p> <p>R29. the law relating to abuse in relationships, including coercive control and online harassment</p> <p>R30. to recognise when a relationship is abusive and strategies to manage this</p> <p>R32. about the challenges associated with getting help in domestic abuse situations of all kinds; the importance of doing so; sources of appropriate advice and support, and how to access them</p> <p>R33. The law relating to 'honour'-based violence and forced marriage; the consequences for individuals and wider society and ways to access support</p>	
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Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That there are different types of committed, stable relationships ● How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children ● What marriage is, including their legal status e.g. that marriage carries legal rights and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony ● Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into ● The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships ● The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting ● 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 to recognise this in others' relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including: trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. This includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship ● Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships ● How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g. how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice) ● 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 people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs ● About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help ● That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control ● What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable ● The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online ● About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online ● Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online ● The impact of viewing harmful content ● That specifically sexually explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners ● That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail ● How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships ● How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 ● 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 ● The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women ● That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others ● That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex ● The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available ● The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage ● That there are choices in relation to pregnancy (with medically and legally accurate, 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) and the importance of and facts about testing ● About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment ● How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour ● How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment

Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
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	