

# RSE POLICY

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## Contents

1. Policy Statement	3
2. Scope and Purpose	3
3. Legislation and Department for Education Guidance	3
4. Procedures	3
5. Coverage	4
6. Information Through Other Curriculum Subjects	4
7. Working with Parents	4
8. Students with Special Educations Needs	4
9. Roles and Responsibilities	5
10. Use of Outside Visitors	5
11. Confidentially and Safeguarding	5
12. Promoting Positive Behaviour and Equality	5
13. Monitoring and Reviewing	5
14. GDPR	5



## 1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Our mission at the Two Counties Trust is: to provide our students with opportunities and experiences to enhance their life choices, making a positive contribution to the world we share.
- 1.2 It is because of this mission that we are fully committed to ensuring that all students should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of relationships and sex education.
- 1.3 Our values of ambition, teamwork and honesty underpin all that we do. We believe that high quality RSE is an essential part of schooling which supports young people's development and prepares them for adult life in order for them to make responsible and well-informed decisions throughout their lives. We are a people first trust and providing high quality RSE is a vital part of putting our young people first.
- 1.4 The DfE's guidance, 'Relationships, Sex and Health Education Guidance 2019', defines this programme as: 'Learning about physical, moral and emotional development; understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and health.' The programme will be taught objectively and does not promote any form of sexual orientation.
- 1.5 We are fully supportive of the DfE's concern about growing child sexual exploitation and we believe that, as such, RSE is more important than ever. There are planned opportunities for RSE; however, teachers will address questions from students, as and when they occur, if they are deemed pertinent to understanding and age-appropriate. Curriculum plans are entirely sensitive and age-appropriate and will be adapted according to the national and local context.

## 2. Scope and Purpose

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical developments of students so that they may make healthy and safe life choices.
- To prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life so that they may make a positive contribution to society.
- To consider a range of values and moral issues, including the importance of family life.
- To help students understand the biological facts related to human growth and development, including reproduction.
- To focus on the importance of healthy relationships.
- To demonstrate and encourage personal responsibility and positive and informed choice.
- To encourage high self-esteem and respect for others.
- Our staff will keep in mind that majority of our students are not engaging in sexual relationships and inappropriate sexual behaviour. In RSE we communicate a positive attitude about the behaviour of our students, and we use a range of data and research to correct misconceptions about young people's sexual behaviour.

## 3. Legislation and Department for Education Guidance

- 3.1 Our policy is underpinned by and compliant with:
  - DfE Relationship, Sex and Health Education Guidance 2019
  - Children and Social Work Bill 1 March 2017 which will come in to full effect from September 2019 (making relationship education statutory)
  - Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
  - Equality Act 2010

## 4. Procedures

- 4.1 All schools have a spiral programme of RSE throughout Years 7 to 11. Sex education is a compulsory part of the science curriculum. Our programme is regularly updated and reviewed. The programme will be delivered through PSHE lessons or tutor periods as well as in National Curriculum Science lessons.
- 4.2 RSE is taught in an age-appropriate manner with an emphasis on facts rather than staff opinion or belief.



## 5. Coverage

- 5.1 As well as the biological aspects of sex education as covered in the science curriculum, families may expect the following to be covered in an age-appropriate way:
- Different types of relationships including friendships, family relationships, dealing with strangers and intimate relationships.
  - How to recognise, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for other; commitment, tolerance, boundaries and consent; how to manage conflict; and how to recognise unhealthy relationships.
  - How relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health.
  - Healthy relationships and safety online, including pornography in KS4.
  - Factual knowledge around sex, sexual health and sexuality.
  - Healthy bodies and lifestyles including keeping safe, puberty, drugs and alcohol education.
  - Healthy minds including emotional wellbeing, resilience, mental health.
- 5.2 All schools will publish annually on their website the long term plan so that student and families can see what content is being covered when

## 6. Information Through Other Curriculum Subjects

- 6.1 Controversial and sensitive subjects do come up in various areas of the curriculum such as English, drama, history and RE lessons. When this happens, it requires a certain amount of discussion. Staff will deal both sensitively and professionally with any issues which arise in the classroom. As long as any discussion takes place within the context of the subject, it will not be deemed to be part of the RSE programme and, therefore, not subject to parental right of withdrawal.
- 6.2 These issues might include:
- Birth, contraception, child socialisation, abortion and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, beliefs, values and morality.
  - Awareness that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and understanding the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact upon lifestyles.
  - Awareness of partnerships, marriage and divorce and the impact of loss, separation and bereavement.
  - Discussion of issues such as sexism and sexual harassment in terms of their effect on individuals.

## 7. Working with Parents

- 7.1 The Two Counties Trust values our close working relationship with parents. We aim to work closely with parents to ensure that everyone understands and values RSE.
- 7.2 We work in active partnership with parents/carers, value their views and keep them informed about our RSE provision. If a parent/carer has any concerns about the RSE provision, we will take time to address their concerns and allay any fears they may have. If parents/carers decide to withdraw their child, we shall work with them and their child to explore possible alternative provision and will work to ensure the safety of that child.
- 7.3 Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from dedicated sex education lessons delivered outside the science curriculum. They do not have a right to withdraw their children from those aspects of RSE that are taught in national curriculum Science or where RSE arises naturally in other subject areas. If students who are withdrawn from sex education ask questions at other times, these questions will be answered honestly by staff, if age-appropriate.
- 7.4 If a parent wishes to discuss withdrawal from RSE they should contact the Headteacher of the school.

## 8. Students With Special Educational Needs

- 8.1 All schools within the trust will ensure that all aspects of RSE is tailored to the needs of all children. Staff are mindful that a particular need may leave a young person more vulnerable to exploitation and, therefore, preparation for adult life will be particularly important.



## 9. Roles and Responsibilities

- 9.1 Each school within the trust has a lead teacher of PSHE who has responsibility for the RSE curriculum. They ensure that the curriculum covers all statutory RSE and is age-appropriate. They provide detailed plans for staff teaching RSE and ensure that resources are relevant and accurate.

## 10. Use of Outside Visitors

- 10.1 It is anticipated that professionals from outside our trust will be involved in teaching the RSE programme at certain times. Every visitor or professional speaker involved in this programme will be made aware of the RSE policy of The Two Counties Trust. All speakers / organisations will subject to vetting before they are invited into schools and are never left unsupervised with students.

## 11. Confidentiality and Safeguarding

- 11.1 Teachers understand that, to some extent, confidentiality during RSE lessons must be acknowledged so that young people feel that they are in a 'safe space' where they can ask questions. We have a shared set of ground rules to underpin this. Staff understand, however, the need to report immediately (in line with the Child Protection Policy) any concerns such as children displaying age-inappropriate knowledge or interest in sex, or expressing views that may indicate a lack of respect for the safety and self-esteem of others.

## 12. Promoting Positive Behaviour and Equality

- 12.1 As well as formally teaching children about the Equality Act (2010) and the rights of people recognised as having protected characteristics, we will constantly promote equality. Sexism, homophobia and any form of discrimination will not be tolerated and young people will be challenged to communicate in appropriate language and have regard for the rights of others. All staff will constantly role-model the highest professional standards, having equal unconditional positive regard for all individuals.

## 13. Monitoring and Reviewing

- 13.1 RSE will be monitored by the PSHE lead in each school alongside pastoral and safeguarding staff so that provision can be continually monitored and adjusted as necessary to reflect the local and national context. The policy will be formally reviewed on an annual basis and any substantial changes will be communicated to the Trust Board / Local Governing Body.

## 14. General Data Protection Regulation

- 14.1 All data within this policy will be processed in line with the requirements and protections set out in the General Data Protection Regulation.

