



**Wyvern Academy**

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## **Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) Policy**

**Review of Policy:** March 2022

**Members of staff responsible:** Head Teacher

**Policy History:** Ratified

### **Description of Policy Formation and Consultation Process**

**People involved:** Head Teacher  
T&L Committee

Signed by Chair of Trustees: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 30.03.22

**Date for Review:** Spring 2025

## Wyvern Academy Sex and Relationships Policy.

March 2022

### Rationale

Sex and relationships education has a focus on building positive relationships and preparing students for life.

Sex and Relationships Education is an integral part of the education of the child. School plays an important role in supporting the development and understanding of good relationships and in teaching children about human reproduction. We have based our school's policy on 'Relationships Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education Guidance' - DfE 2021

At Wyvern, staff are committed to fostering positive relationships with students and helping them develop positive relationships with others.

We endeavour to make the curriculum accessible to students with Special Educational Needs and RSHE should form an important part of this, as good relationships are key to making pupils happy and content and able to learn. The main emphasis is on *positive relationships*, however puberty and sex education are important as the students become older as they need support to understand what is happening to them as their bodies change and develop.

RSHE takes place in a familiar environment with known staff so that pupils are confident and able to ask questions, or communicate with their communication aids or other support systems.

As with the rest of the curriculum, students with SEN may need to access more specific and varied resources than their mainstream peers. Students with Special Needs can be more vulnerable. We are keen for parents to be informed of what the students are learning and to have the opportunity to come into School to talk about issues if they wish.

### Aims and Outcomes

Wyvern Academy aims to teach sex and relationships in a way that is age appropriate, and is carefully and sensitively matched to the needs of the students in our School. The emphasis is upon positive relationships and developing an understanding of changes that happen to them. We wish to promote the spiritual, cultural, mental and social well-being of all students.

Our outcomes are that pupils will:

- Develop greater self-esteem and self-respect
- Show empathy and respect for others, and develop positive attitudes towards Diversity, including in family set-up, sexual orientation and gender identity

- Be able to form and manage healthy relationships of all kinds
- Understand and be able to manage the physical and emotional changes and challenges of growing up in a positive and healthy way
- Develop the understanding and skills to keep themselves and others safe
- Develop responsible attitudes towards parenthood
- Understand the sources of help and information that is available to them and be able to ask for support when needed

### Organisation/content

Students will be taught by their class teacher. They will draw upon the services of school nurses and other professionals for advice where necessary.

We endeavour to teach children about:

- Self-awareness and communicating feelings
- Working and playing together
- Social skills and appropriate behaviour
- Permission seeking and giving (consent)
- Feelings and emotions and how to deal with these
- Managing friendships
- The difference between public and private places
- That some behaviours are not appropriate in a public place.
- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults (puberty);
- The way humans reproduce;
- Respect for their own bodies;
- Healthy and unhealthy relationships
- The importance of family life;
- Respect for other people and their opinion;
- What they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters

Within the primary department most classes will access SRE from the SEAL rainbow Resource. The topics 'Good to be me,' 'Relationships' and 'Changes' have sections which link to the onset of puberty.

During the secondary department students will use sections of the SEAL activities but also access more age appropriate resources. More active teaching methods may be needed for young people with more complex needs, giving plenty of practice of skills and familiarization with situations.

The school appreciates that this area of the curriculum must be handled with sensitivity and discretion, during all Key stages teachers should work closely with parents to ensure that families are well informed about the content and timing of the sessions. Specific strategies or courses may need to be devised to support pupils in RSHE to reflect their particular individual needs (such as pupils with autism who will need support with understanding social situations and communication issues).

Within some classes (particularly the autistic bases) some students will be taught on a more individual basis, as appropriate with their developmental level. Sometimes this will be on a 'needs to know' basis (for example where behaviour could be obsessive) and discussions will

take place between home and school. This is to help protect students who may take information very literally and put themselves at risk in some situations.

#### Specific classroom organisation

Pupils may be divided into small groups or have individual sessions on RSHE.

#### The role of parents

Studies show that 'Children and young people have said that they want their parents to be the first people who talk to them about sex and relationships. Parents have a unique emotional relationship with their child and knowledge of their maturity and can respond to their questions about sex and relationships more spontaneously as they arise'. But often this doesn't happen.

We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. We aim to keep parents informed of what is being taught and when. We realise that many parents will want to teach their children about sex and relationships. Workshops will be developed for parents with support from Health professionals.

**Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from RSHE taught outside of the science national curriculum (Human reproduction forms part of the science curriculum) but if they choose to withdraw their children from school provision they have a responsibility to provide alternative SRE.**

If you wish to withdraw your child from SRE please write to the Head Teacher and state which aspects you'd like your child removed from. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss your concerns.

Please note that you have an obligation to provide your child with Sex and Relationships Education.

We may welcome the opportunity to discuss individual concerns with staff and develop common strategies to support the child or young person.

#### Attitudes and Beliefs

Faith and cultural beliefs have an important role in shaping children and young people's views and decisions about sex and relationships. The SRE at Wyvern Academy aims to promote equality, inclusion & acceptance of diversity.

We aim to help students understand the importance of loving stable relationships and marriage as well as the responsibilities of parenthood

#### Safeguarding

##### Safe and Effective Practice

Staff work hard to build good relationships with pupils and create a safe learning environment where sensitive and difficult matters can be discussed. Ground rules are agreed with pupils to

ensure respect for everyone's feelings, opinions and privacy. Distancing techniques such as stories and online clips are used to depersonalise issues and enable more open and objective discussion, and pupils are able to talk in small groups as well as with the whole class.

Staff will communicate with pupils in an appropriate method to ensure that pupils are able to ask questions and understand the content of the lessons.

In addition, an important part of PSHCE learning, including RSE, is understanding the importance of talking about feelings and concerns with a trusted adult, and pupils are encouraged to identify who these people are for them - at school, within the family or in other organisations such as youth clubs.

### Confidentiality

Every attempt is made to keep information divulged by pupils confidential. However, we reserve the right to inform parents and carers and/or other agencies if we feel that the information reveals incidents that might be harmful to the pupil. When outside agencies provide classroom sessions they must be aware of, and follow, the Confidentiality Policy of the school. However, where a health professional is working in a one-to-one situation they are bound by their professional codes of conduct.

### Contraceptive advice

Contraception forms part of the Secondary RSE curriculum, as appropriate to the pupils, although we do not volunteer individual contraceptive advice to students. However, if we believe that a pupil is engaged in unlawful sexual activity, we may feel it appropriate to talk to the pupil and inform other agencies and/or parents and carers.

### Vulnerable pupils

Staff will be sensitive to individual children's circumstances and needs. Where necessary, additional targeted support may be provided or advised for an individual pupil or small group, either by the class teacher, parents or carers, school counsellor, sexual health nurse or other agencies.

### Child Protection

Staff are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. In this instance, concerns would be reported to one of the designated safeguarding leads or, in their absence, the most senior member of staff on duty, who would follow the school's Child Protection procedures. All staff are aware of these procedures, which are regularly updated (see Child Protection Policy), and they receive regular safeguarding training.

### Assessment

The staff will review progress and use the IEP to create new targets for pupils. These can be assessed using MAPP.

### Policy Review

This policy is to be reviewed by the Subject lead in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and Trustees as part of the policy review schedule.

This policy/procedure is to be read in conjunction with all others that come under the Wyvern Safeguarding family of policies.

These are: Child Protection, Behaviour (including anti-bullying), Staff Code of Conduct, Intimate Care, Medical, Whistle-Blowing, Health and Safety, E-Safety, Safer Recruitment, Complaints, Allegations Procedures, Attendance (pupils), Data Protection, Looked after Children, Lone Working, Manual Handling, Pool Safety Operating Procedures, Violence at Work, and the Single Equality Policy.

Legislation:

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2021, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education, and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. Some elements of sex education are also required to be taught to primary aged children as part of the Science curriculum. Other documents which inform our RSE policy include:

- Education Act (1996)
- Learning and Skills Act (2000)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010),
- Supplementary Guidance SRE for the 21st century (2014)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory safeguarding guidance (2021)

As such, reference is made to the key guidance documents: Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 and Guidance for Safer Working Practice 2015.