



## **Relationships and Sex Education Policy (2025-2026)**

**Warwick Schools Foundation Multi School Trust**

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Regulatory</b>          | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Policy Type</b>         | Hybrid Policy (WSF Trust Board and School LGB)                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Version</b>             | 2025.1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Author and Reviewer</b> | WSF MAT Executive Team                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Approving Body</b>      | Trust Board                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Date Approved</b>       | December 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Review Cycle</b>        | Annual<br>This policy will not expire but will be reviewed as per its designated cycle. This policy remains effective whilst the review is taking place and will only become non-applicable once the updated version has been approved. |
| <b>Last Review Date</b>    | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Next Review Date</b>    | Summer 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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## **Section 1 Introduction**

The Warwick Schools Foundation Multi School Trust (WSF MAT) is committed to ensuring that all pupils should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of relationships and sex education. The Trust believes that high quality relationship and sex education is an essential part of schooling which supports young people's development and prepares them for adult life in order for pupils to make responsible and well-informed decisions in their lives.

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. Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is taught in RE, science and through our PHSE curriculum. 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 pupils, as and when they occur, if they are deemed pertinent to understanding and age appropriate. Schemes are entirely sensitive and age-appropriate and may have been adapted in each school according to the local context. Major world religions and their beliefs about relationships are taught in Religious Education (RE) which is a compulsory part of our curriculum offer.

## **Section 2 Scope and purpose**

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical developments of pupils so that they may make healthy and safe life choices.
- To prepare pupils 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 pupils 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.

## **Section 3 Legislation and department for education guidance**

The policy is underpinned by and compliant with:

- Children and Social Work Bill 1 March 2017 in full effect from September 2019 (making relationship education statutory)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- Equality Act 2010

## **Section 4 Procedures**

The programme has been designed by each of our schools. Should you have any questions regarding the scope and content of their RSE programme these should be addressed to the Headteacher of your child's school.

### **Section 5 Coverage**

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, in secondary schools, intimate relationships
- how to recognise, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for others; commitment, tolerance, boundaries and consent; how to manage conflict; and also how to recognise unhealthy relationships
- how relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health
- healthy relationships and safety online
- healthy bodies and lifestyles including keeping safe, puberty, drugs and alcohol education
- healthy minds including emotional wellbeing, resilience, mental health

### **Section 6 Information through other curriculum subjects**

6.1. Parents must be aware that, through other curriculum subjects such as English, drama, history and RE, controversial issues may come up and, therefore, require a certain amount of discussion. 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. Staff will deal both sensitively and professionally with any issues which arise in the classroom.

6.2. A number of these issues are mentioned below:

- 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

### **Section 7 Working with parents**

7.1. The Trust values our close working relationship with parents; our three-way partnership is a corner-stone of our on-going success. Our schools have worked closely with parents, and parents see the value of sex education for their children. We are optimistic that this situation will continue as our Trust grows. Withdrawal from PSHSE in our schools is extremely rare.

7.2. Parents currently have the right to withdraw their children from sex education within PSHSE, but not relationships education and not from those elements which are in the formal science curriculum. If a parent wishes to discuss sex education and possible withdrawal from those classes, they are expected to discuss it with the Headteacher to be clear about what the pupil will do when withdrawn and a realistic expectation of supervision that can be provided. It should be made clear, however, that if pupils who are withdrawn from sex education ask questions at other times, these questions will be answered honestly by staff, if age appropriate.

## **Section 8 Pupils with special educational needs**

All schools 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.

## **Section 9 Roles and responsibilities**

All Class teachers deliver aspects of the RSE programme.

## **Section 10 Use of outside speakers**

It may be that professionals from outside our schools 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 school. If this is part of the schools planned programme, parents will be informed of this.

## **Section 11 Confidentiality and safeguarding**

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. 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.

## **Section 12 Promoting positive behaviour and equality**

As well as formally teaching children about the Equality Act (2010) and the rights of people recognised as having protected characteristics, our schools will constantly promote a positive of 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.

### **Section 13 Monitoring and reviewing Working**

RSE will be monitored by the Headteacher / senior leaders continually and adjusted as necessary to reflect the local and national context. The policy will be formally reviewed on an annual basis and any changes will be communicated to the Local Governing Body.