



RSE Policy 2026-2028

Aims of the Policy

At Castledyke Primary, we believe that our pupils need to be educated in Relationships Education and Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) as part of a broad and balanced curriculum that develops the whole child and supports their personal development, health and wellbeing. We define Relationships Education as learning about personal, physical, social, moral, cultural and emotional development. It includes understanding the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, and different kinds of family life, friendships and other relationships. It also involves acquiring information and developing and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes that help pupils to form and maintain healthy relationships and connections.

We consider effective Relationships Education and RSE to be a vital part of the school approach to effective safeguarding. We believe Relationships Education and RSE are important for our pupils and our school because they help to keep everyone safe, happy and healthy. The overarching aims of Relationships Education and Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) at our school are:

- To keep children safe
- To educate on the risks of sexual safety
- To promote positive relationships both now and in the future
- To support parents with conversations around RSE
- To address concerns parents and children may have around RSE
- To highlight online safety risks eg photo sharing, inappropriate online usage and coercion

At an appropriate age for our pupils, part of our school provision also includes the teaching of relevant additional non-statutory sex education to complement pupils' wider understanding of human development and relationships. Any non-statutory sex education content is clearly identified in our curriculum overview. Further information can be found in the 'Working with parents/Parents' right to withdraw' section of this policy. Relationships Education and RSE are not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity. Instead, they support understanding and acceptance of the diverse relationships that exist within our school community, in modern Britain and beyond. We ensure that any Relationships Education and RSE we deliver are inclusive and meet the needs of all our pupils, including those pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Statutory and legal requirements

Current regulations and statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) state that Relationships & Health Education must be taught in all primary schools in England from September 2020. This guidance was updated in July 2025 for implementation from September 2026. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but the DfE recommend that primaries teach sex education in Years 5 and/or 6, in line with content about conception and birth, which forms part of the National curriculum for science. The National curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals.

The statutory guidance document has been reviewed to ensure that our school policy and approach are in line with statutory requirements and established best practice. Information on statutory requirements, including the current statutory guidance document from the DfE, can be found in Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance.

At our school, we deliver Relationships Education/RSE, as set out in this policy, in line with current statutory duties and requirements. As a maintained school, we must provide Relationships & Sex Education to all pupils in line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

Legislation and guidance documents that inform our school's RSE policy include:

- Education Act (1996).
- Learning and Skills Act (2000).
- Education and Inspections Act (2006).
- Equality Act (2010).
- Keeping children safe in education (2025).
- Children and Social Work Act (2017).
- Relationships Education, Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2025).

Curriculum content and organisation

Our Relationships Education and Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) curriculum and policy have been developed in consultation with parents, pupils, governors and staff, in line with current statutory guidance and with regard to best practice around the age and needs of our pupils. The PSHE/RSE subject lead is responsible for overseeing and organising the Relationships Education/RSE curriculum. This includes supporting curriculum planning and development, supporting teachers and ensuring that resources used are in line with our curriculum plan and school policy.

Relationships Education/RSE is delivered as part of our PSHE programme. Through this, we aim to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy and independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. Our provision intends to help young people develop confidence in talking about and considering relationships that we all have. Relationships Education/RSE is taught gradually across key stages so that learning builds year by year in a way that is appropriate to pupils' age and maturity. This approach responds to the pupils' needs and supports them to manage the opportunities and challenges they may face as they grow up.

At Castledyke Primary school, we use the Kapow Primary RSE/PSHE scheme of work as the basis for our Relationships Education/RSE provision. Our Relationships Education/RSE provision is mapped to the statutory requirements for Relationships Education and Health Education. Related content is also taught through other curriculum subjects, such as:

- religious education
- science.
- Assemblies
- whole school projects and events,

Relationships Education/RSE is delivered through timetabled curriculum lessons as part of our PSHE and RSE curriculum. Related statutory elements are also delivered through

science, in line with the National curriculum. As part of our PSHE and RSE curriculum, we cover a range of topics and learning outcomes that support Relationships Education/RSE across the school. For further information about our Relationships Education/RSE curriculum, see the curriculum overview in

Delivery of RSE

Our Relationships Education/RSE curriculum is delivered predominantly by teachers or other staff within our school from Years 1 to 6 and forms part of our timetabled Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PSHE) education programme.

We recognise that external visitors can add value to the teaching and delivery of Relationships Education/RSE due to their specialist knowledge or expertise. On occasion, appropriately experienced visitors may contribute to the delivery of Relationships Education/RSE. Relevant school policies, including this policy, are shared with any visitors prior to delivery to ensure expectations are clear. School staff are always present during sessions delivered by visitors, and visitors are expected to work in line with this policy and other relevant school policies.

Creating a safe learning environment is a vital part of effective Relationships Education/RSE delivery, particularly where sensitive or complex issues may be explored. Our school supports pupils to develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about relationships in a safe and secure way.

To support this, a range of strategies are used, including:

- Establishing clear ground rules or learning agreements with pupils on boundaries in lessons.
- Using 'distancing' techniques and strategies.
- Understanding how to discuss sensitive topics, questions or comments from pupils.
- Using age-appropriate materials.
- Encouraging reflection and discussion.

A wide variety of best-practice teaching and learning approaches are used within the Kapow RSE/PSHE programme to support effective and sensitive delivery of Relationships Education/RSE.

These include:

- Film-clips/graphics.
- Scenarios and stories.
- Images and visual prompts.
- Reflection and discussions activities (i.e. whole class, small groups, paired etc.).
- Role play.
- Problem-solving activities.
- Independent, paired and group work.
- The use of anonymous question boxes.

Staff receive training where required to support safe and effective delivery, including how to manage sensitive topics and pupil questions. During Relationships Education/RSE lessons, pupils are encouraged to ask appropriate questions in line with the agreed boundaries/ground rules established. Any questions arising from pupils are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned, and if the teacher delivering the

session deems it appropriate to answer, teaching staff aim to answer questions honestly and factually, within the scope of the curriculum. Where a question is not age-appropriate, falls outside the curriculum, or a member of staff does not feel it is appropriate to answer in class, pupils may be supported individually or signposted to parents or carers, who have the primary responsibility for discussing sensitive matters.

Inclusion

It is our intention that all pupils have the opportunity to experience a programme of Relationships Education/Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) at a level that is appropriate for their age and cognitive development, with differentiated provision where required. We operate a fully inclusive ethos in our school. Lesson plans and content are adapted by the subject lead and teachers where necessary to ensure that all pupils can effectively access Relationships Education/RSE learning.

Our school recognises that there are different ethnic, religious and cultural beliefs and attitudes around Relationships Education/RSE topics, as well as acknowledging that pupils may come from a variety of different family types and backgrounds. These differences are reflected through teaching and resources that promote diversity and inclusion in Relationships Education/RSE. During PSHE and RSE sessions, objective discussion of the diversity of the community we serve, and wider society in modern Britain, is approached in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner so that all pupils have access to lessons that are inclusive and based on a factual understanding of the law.

We are mindful of statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted, and of the legal responsibilities placed upon schools by the Equality Act (2010) to promote inclusion, mutual respect and the protection of protected characteristics. Relationships Education/RSE provides an opportunity to support the discharge of these duties in a safe and appropriate environment. The full Act can be viewed here:

- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

All schools in England have a legal responsibility to eliminate discrimination and are required to raise pupils' understanding and awareness of diversity and to promote respectful relationships with those who are different from them.

Safeguarding and confidentiality

Confidentiality in Relationships Education/Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) lessons is managed in line with the school's confidentiality policy. A member of staff can never promise unconditional confidentiality to pupils if concerns exist or disclosures are made during lessons. Staff ensure that pupils are made aware that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and that there are procedures that must be followed. The school's safeguarding protocols are followed at all times.

Through the ground rules established as part of creating a safe learning environment in all PSHE and RSE lessons, pupils are reminded that personal questions or sensitive information should not be shared in an open classroom environment. Pupils are also reminded that they can speak to a member of staff or another trusted adult if they have any questions, worries or concerns.

Teachers are aware that effective Relationships Education/RSE, which includes developing an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in different relationships, may sometimes

lead to disclosures of safeguarding concerns by pupils. If this occurs, the member of staff informs the head teacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), in line with the school's safeguarding policy. All staff are trained to handle questions and disclosures sensitively. If a pupil's question or comment raises a safeguarding concern, staff follow the school's safeguarding policy and inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately. Confidentiality is respected as far as possible, but safeguarding always takes priority. Ground rules are used within lessons to help manage disclosures and behaviour, alongside other strategies that support the creation of a safe learning environment.

Working with parents/Parents' right to withdraw

The role of parents in the development of their children's understanding about relationships is vital. Parents are the first teachers of their children and have the most significant influence in enabling their children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships.

At Castledyke Primary, we are committed to working closely with parents to ensure that we create the best possible Relationships Education/Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) curriculum for our pupils, while also supporting parents in the conversations they may have with their children around these topics. We aim to build a partnership approach with parents towards Relationships Education/RSE provision, where transparency and respectful understanding is the basis for all discussions. Parents are always welcome to contact the school to view resources and discuss any questions or concerns with the headteacher or subject lead.

As set out in Department for Education (DfE) requirements, schools should show parents a representative sample of the resources they plan to use, enabling parents to continue conversations started in class, and should ensure that parents are able to view all curriculum materials used to teach RSHE on request. To meet this duty, we provide samples of materials during parent information events held in school, where appropriate. Parents who wish to view additional RSHE/PSHE teaching materials are asked to contact the school to arrange an appointment, during which the headteacher and/or subject lead will share information, resources and discuss any specific topics, issues or concerns. This approach supports open discussion and helps build understanding of the context of our RSHE/PSHE provision across the school. Our school values transparency and partnership with parents and carers in delivering high-quality Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). In line with statutory guidance, we will:

1. Provide access to RSHE curriculum materials
 - Parents and carers may request to view materials used in R(S)HE lessons, including those from external providers.
2. Offer multiple ways to view resources
 - Representative samples of lesson plans and teaching resources are shared during parent information sessions where these are held.
 - Additional materials can be viewed by appointment at school or via secure online access, where this is feasible.
3. Engage parents proactively
 - We may hold R(S)HE information sessions to explain the curriculum approach and answer questions.
 - Parents are informed of any significant changes to R(S)HE content and invited to share feedback.

4. Safeguarding and copyright considerations

- While we aim to provide full transparency, some resources may be subject to copyright restrictions. In these cases, parents are offered supervised viewing in school.
- All sharing of materials complies with safeguarding and data protection policies.

Roles and responsibilities

The following is a summary of some of the key expectations relating to roles and responsibilities within our school community for Relationships Education/Relationships & Sex Education (RSE). This list is not exhaustive, but provides a clear reference point for the main expectations.

Governors/Trustees will:

- Approve the Relationships Education/RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation based on statutory duties.
- Ensure that governors are supportive of the school's policy, aims and objectives relating to Relationships Education/RSE.

The headteacher will:

- Oversee all aspects of this policy and ensure it is implemented and reviewed as required.
- Work with the subject lead to support the implementation of this policy.
- Ensure that Relationships Education/RSE is taught consistently across the school in line with this policy.
- Manage the process for any parental requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory sex education.
- Ensure that all staff receive appropriate training relating to RSHE.
- Ensure that all staff are aware of this policy and associated guidance.
- Ensure that the school meets statutory requirements for Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education.
- Communicate with staff, parents and governors to ensure understanding of the school's Relationships Education/RSE curriculum and policy.

All staff will:

- Teach Relationships Education/RSE in line with this policy and the school curriculum. Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching Relationships and Sex Education.
- Model positive attitudes and behaviours.
- Consult the subject lead if they have questions regarding provision.
- Monitor pupil progress and provide feedback on delivery when requested.
- Respond to the needs of individual pupils and adapt provision as required, in line with this policy and planning.
- Ensure that personal beliefs and attitudes do not prevent the delivery of balanced and inclusive Relationships Education/RSE.
- Ensure that they are up to date with school policy and curriculum requirements around Relationships Education/RSE.
- Keep up to date with school policy and curriculum requirements.
- Take part in training as required.

- Follow school safeguarding procedures and inform the appropriate member of staff if any safeguarding concerns arise.
- Respond appropriately to parental requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory sex education.

The subject lead will:

- Oversee the day-to-day operation of the school's Relationships Education/RSE provision and policy.
- Keep up to date with changes in legislation and best practice.
- Support or organise training where necessary.
- Liaise with relevant external agencies (for example, school nursing services or visitors).
- Ensure appropriate resources and materials are available.
- Develop, review, monitor and evaluate the delivery of Relationships Education/RSE.
- Report to governors and senior leaders as requested.

Pupils will:

- Take part fully in lessons.
- Follow and contribute to agreed ground rules in lessons.
- Behave appropriately and treat others with respect and sensitivity.
- Talk to teachers or other school staff if they have worries or concerns.
- Support the creation of positive and inclusive Relationships Education/RSE lessons.

Parents will:

- Share responsibility for supporting their child's Relationships Education/RSE learning and wider personal, social and emotional development.
- Support the delivery of Relationships Education/RSE in line with this policy.
- Engage in consultation and information-sharing opportunities.
- Seek additional support from the school where needed.

Training and staff development

All staff must ensure that they are up to date with school policy and curriculum requirements regarding Relationships Education/Relationships & Sex Education (RSE). We recognise that some elements of the curriculum may mean staff require further support or training around certain themes to increase confidence and ensure that delivery is effective.

As stated by the Department for Education (DfE), the RSHE curriculum in schools should be delivered by staff who have the knowledge, skills and confidence to create a safe and supportive environment and to facilitate participative and interactive education which aims to support, and not to alarm, pupils. Staff should be trained in safeguarding and offering support, recognising the increased possibility of disclosures.

At Castledyke Primary, we ensure that staff are aware of best practice in delivery by providing regular training opportunities. We expect staff to provide regular feedback to the subject lead on their experience of teaching Relationships Education/RSE, including identifying any areas where additional support or training would be helpful. Training related to Relationships Education/RSE forms part of the school's regular staff training programme.

Monitoring and evaluation of Relationships Education/RSE

Our aim is to provide Relationships Education/RSE that is relevant and tailored to meet the needs of our pupils, based on their age and stage of personal development. For this reason, we regularly review our curriculum to evaluate its effectiveness.

The PSHE/RSE subject lead is responsible for monitoring and evaluating provision to ensure that the programme is effective and impactful.

The subject lead reports to the headteacher and governors and makes information available as requested.

Monitoring and evaluation may include:

- Monitoring of planning.
- Lesson observations.
- Learning walks.
- Work scrutiny.
- Pupil voice activities.
- Staff feedback.
- Parent feedback and engagement.
- Surveys.
- Consideration of local or school level sources of data (for example, behaviour, health or safeguarding information). Teachers are expected to reflect on their delivery of Relationships Education/RSE and provide feedback to the subject lead to support ongoing development of the subject.