

RSE Policy Framework

St Mary's Primary School, Banbury



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Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Statutory requirements	3
3. Policy development	3
4. Definition	3
5. Roles and responsibilities	4
The board of trustees	4
Local governing bodies.....	4
The headteacher.....	4
Staff	4
Pupils.....	4
6. Curriculum.....	4
7. Delivery of RSE	5
8. Inclusivity.....	6
Use of resources.....	6
9. Use of external organisations and materials – Trust statement	6
10. Parents’ right to withdraw	7
11. Training	7
12. Monitoring arrangements	8
13. Appendix 1: Curriculum map	9
14. Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know	13
15. Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know	Error! Bookmark not defined.
16. Appendix 3: Parent/carer form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE	14

This policy framework sets out the approach to relationships and sex education (RSE) across ODST. The appendices have been adapted to reflect the circumstances in our school.

1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) in our trust 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

All ODST primary schools, must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#). This legislation also requires us to provide RSE to all pupils at our middle school (Y5–Y8).

ODST schools follow the National Curriculum. This includes the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum at primary level.

In teaching RSE, we're 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](#).

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

As a school within ODST, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This ODST policy framework is intended to provide information about the RSE curriculum and delivery for all ODST schools. Each school is responsible for developing their own policy and for providing the correct appendices for all stakeholders.

For our school, the policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents/carers. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff team pulled together all relevant information including relevant up to date national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – staff across our school were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents/carers and any interested stakeholders were invited to comment on the policy
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with the Local Governing Body for ratification

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. Roles and responsibilities

The Scheme of Delegation

The board of trustees

The board of trustees, delegated to the Education Quality Standards and Impact Committee, will approve the RSE policy framework, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation through local governing bodies.

Local governing bodies

Local governing bodies are responsible for supporting the implementation of the policy at their school and reporting issues to the board of trustees if they occur.

The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across their school, for making sure that resources and materials are shared with parents and carers, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 10).

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/carers 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.

Pupils

Pupils are supported to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, should treat others with respect and sensitivity.

6. Curriculum

Our RSE 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/carers, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

We will share any curriculum resources and materials with parents and carers upon request.

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

7. Delivery of RSE

In our primary school, relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

At St Mary's, we use SCARF materials that align with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, particularly in Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED) and Communication and Language. SCARF Early Years plans form part of a spiral curriculum that builds the foundation for Relationships and Health Education requirements.

We dedicate three weeks of the academic year to SCIB programmes focusing on substance misuse, protective behaviours, and positive relationships—developed in collaboration with local schools, Thames Valley Police, and Cherwell District Council.

Our curriculum revisits key themes annually, reinforcing overlearning to ensure students apply their knowledge in real-world contexts, making safe and healthy choices.

Vulnerable learners receive targeted support through PSHE, equipping them with the language and protective behaviours necessary to assess risks and seek help from trusted adults. Teachers use interventions like nurture groups, social stories, and focused support to help children understand key concepts and make positive decisions.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born

We use materials provided by the Oxfordshire School Nurse Service and Coram Scarf materials

- In Year 5, children will learn about the changes that adolescence brings
- In Year 6, children will revisit about the changes that adolescence brings and learn about how a baby is born and conceived.

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).

Across our trust, we will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

8. Inclusivity

ODST schools will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- During lessons, makes pupils feel:
 - Safe and supported
 - Able to engage with the key messages

They will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
 - A whole-class setting
 - Small groups or targeted sessions
 - 1-to-1 discussions
 - Digital formats
- Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

Use of resources

Our schools will consider whether any resources they plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

9. Use of external organisations and materials – trust statement

Across our trust, we delegate responsibility for making sure that an agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality to each school.

Schools remain responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used don't undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Our schools **will**:

- Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
 - Are age-appropriate
 - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
 - Comply with:
 - This policy
 - The [Teachers' Standards](#)
 - The [Equality Act 2010](#)
 - The [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
 - The [Education Act 1996](#)

- Only work with external agencies where they have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses
- Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
- Review any case study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
- Be clear on:
 - What they're going to say
 - Their position on the issues to be discussed
- Ask to see in advance any materials that the agency may use
- Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow usual safeguarding procedures for these people
- Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to the school, or to parents and carers
- Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
- Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
- Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers
- Share any external materials with parents and carers
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Our schools **won't**, under any circumstances:

- Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
- Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme

10. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in the Appendix of this policy and addressed to the headteacher of the school.

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

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher of the school.

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

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

11. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our school's continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher may also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

12. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Local Governing Body through the usual monitoring programme agreed. Insert details of monitoring arrangements, such as planning scrutiny, learning walks, etc.

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

This policy framework will be reviewed by the EQSI committee of the trust board every 3 years. At every review, the school's policy will be approved by LGB.

13. Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Relationships and sex education curriculum map

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS	<p>Me and my relationships</p> <p>Key themes: Feelings Getting help Classroom rules</p>	<p>Valuing difference</p> <p>Key themes: Recognising, valuing and celebrating difference Developing tolerance</p>	<p>E-Safety Zones of Regulation</p> <p>Key themes: How our feelings can keep us safe Identifying emotions and the zones they relate to Expected and unexpected behaviours Identifying triggers and strategies to regulate</p>	<p>Online Safety Rights and responsibilities</p> <p>Key themes: Looking after things</p>	<p>Being my best</p> <p>Key themes: Growth Mind-set Keeping healthy</p>	<p>Growing and changing</p> <p>Key themes: Getting help Becoming independent Body parts</p>
Year 1	<p>Me and my relationships</p> <p>Key themes: Feelings Getting help Classroom rules</p>	<p>SCiB Substance misuse Valuing difference</p> <p>Key themes: Keeping healthy Medicine safety Recognising, valuing and celebrating difference Developing tolerance</p>	<p>E-Safety Zones of Regulation</p> <p>Key themes: How our feelings can keep us safe Identifying emotions and the zones they relate to Expected and unexpected behaviours Identifying triggers and strategies to regulate</p>	<p>SCiB Positive Relationships Online Safety Rights and responsibilities</p> <p>Key themes: Looking after things</p>	<p>Being my best</p> <p>Key themes: Growth Mind-set Keeping healthy</p>	<p>SCiB Protective behaviours Growing and changing</p> <p>Key themes: Getting help Becoming independent Body parts</p>
Year 2	<p>Me and my relationships</p> <p>Key themes: Bullying and teasing</p>	<p>SCiB Substance misuse Valuing difference</p> <p>Key themes:</p>	<p>E-safety Zones of Regulation</p> <p>Key themes:</p>	<p>SCiB Positive relationships Rights and responsibilities</p> <p>Key themes:</p>	<p>Being my best</p> <p>Key themes: Looking after my body</p>	<p>SCiB Protective behaviours Growing and changing</p>

	<p>Our school rules about bullying</p> <p>Being a good friend</p> <p>Feelings/self-regulation</p>	<p>Being kind and helping others</p> <p>Listening skills</p>	<p>Safe and unsafe secrets</p> <p>Identifying emotions and the zones they relate to</p> <p>Expected and unexpected behaviours</p> <p>Identifying triggers and strategies to regulate</p>	<p>Cooperation and self-regulation</p>	<p>Growth mindset</p>	<p>Key themes:</p> <p>Life cycles</p> <p>Dealing with loss</p> <p>Being supportive</p>
Year 3	<p>Being my best</p> <p>Key themes:</p> <p>Keeping myself healthy</p> <p>Celebrating and developing my skills</p>	<p>SCiB Substance Misuse</p> <p>Keeping Safe</p> <p>Key themes:</p> <p>Drugs and their risks</p> <p>Staying safe online</p>	<p>SCiB Online Safety</p> <p>Zones of Regulation</p> <p>Key themes:</p> <p>Recognising and respecting diversity</p> <p>Being respectful and tolerant</p> <p>Identifying emotions and the zones they relate to</p> <p>Expected and unexpected behaviours</p> <p>Identifying triggers and strategies to regulate</p>	<p>SCiB Positive Relationships</p> <p>Growing and changing</p> <p>Key themes:</p> <p>Relationships</p> <p>Menstruation</p> <p>Keeping safe</p>	<p>Rights and respects</p> <p>Key themes:</p> <p>Cooperation</p> <p>Friendships</p>	<p>SCiB Protective behaviours</p> <p>Safer Together project</p> <p>Key themes:</p> <p>Skills we need to develop as we grow up</p> <p>Helping and being helped</p>

Year 4	<p>Being my best</p> <p>Key themes: Having choices and making decisions about my health Taking care of my environment</p>	<p>SCiB Substance Misuse Keeping Safe</p> <p>Key themes: Managing risk Understanding the norms of drug use (cigarette and alcohol use) Influences</p>	<p>SCiB Online Safety Zones of Regulation</p> <p>Key themes: Recognising and celebrating difference (including religions and cultural difference) Understanding and challenging stereotypes Identifying emotions and the zones they relate to Expected and unexpected behaviours Identifying triggers and strategies to regulate</p>	<p>SCiB Positive Relationships Growing and changing</p> <p>Key themes: Body changes during puberty Managing difficult feelings Relationships including marriage</p>	<p>Rights and respects</p> <p>Key themes: Making a difference (different ways of helping others or the environment) Media influence Decisions about spending money</p>	<p>SCiB Protective behaviours Safer Together project</p> <p>Key themes: Recognising feelings Bullying Assertive feelings</p>
Year 5	<p>Being my best</p> <p>Key themes: Growing independence and taking responsibility Media awareness and safety</p>	<p>SCiB Substance Misuse Democracy Rights and responsibilities</p> <p>Key themes: Rights and responsibilities relating to my health Rights and responsibilities Decisions about lending, borrowing and spending</p>	<p>Zones of Regulation</p> <p>Key themes: Feelings Friendship skills, including compromise Assertive skills Identifying emotions and the zones they relate to Expected and unexpected behaviours Identifying triggers and strategies to regulate</p>	<p>SCiB Positive Relationships Keeping safe</p> <p>Key themes: Managing risk, including staying safe online Norms around use of legal drugs (tobacco, alcohol)</p>	<p>Valuing differences</p> <p>Key themes: Recognising and celebrating difference, including religions and cultural Influence and pressure of social media</p>	<p>SCiB Protective behaviours Growing and Changing</p> <p>Key themes: Managing difficult feelings Managing change Getting help</p>
Year 6	<p>Being my best</p> <p>Key themes:</p>	<p>SCiB Substance Misuse Democracy</p>	<p>Me and my relationships Zones of Regulation</p>	<p>SCiB Positive Relationships Keeping safe</p> <p>Key themes:</p>	<p>Valuing differences</p> <p>Key themes:</p>	<p>SCiB Protective behaviours Growing and Changing</p>

	<p>Aspirations and goal setting Managing risk</p>	<p>Rights and responsibilities</p> <p>Key themes: Understanding media bias, including social media Caring: communities and the environment Earning and saving money</p>	<p>Key themes: Assertiveness Cooperation Safe/unsafe touches Identifying emotions and the zones they relate to Expected and unexpected behaviours Identifying triggers and strategies to regulate</p>	<p>Emotional needs Staying safe online Drugs: norms and risks (including the law)</p>	<p>Recognising and reflecting on prejudice-based bullying Understanding Bystander behaviour</p>	<p>Key themes: Keeping safe Body changes Self esteem</p>
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14. Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability • The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other’s lives • That others’ families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children’s families are also characterised by love and care • That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children’s security as they grow up • That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong • How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends • The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded • That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right • How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships • The conventions of courtesy and manners • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness • 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 those in positions of authority • About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help • What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive • The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not • That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous • The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them • How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met • How information and data is shared and used online
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context) • About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe • That each person’s body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know • How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult • How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard • How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so • Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources

15. Appendix 3: Parent/carer form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS			
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			

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS

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Parent signature

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TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL

Agreed actions from discussion with parents

Include notes from discussions with parents and agreed actions taken.
Eg: Joe Bloggs will be taking part in all relationships lessons and during the sex education lessons, he will be working independently on a project in the Year 5 classroom

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