

**Ysgol Uwchradd Y Frenhines Elisabeth
Queen Elizabeth High School**



Moving Forward Together

***Relationships and Sexuality Education
Policy (formerly Healthy Relationships)***

Curriculum, Staffing & Pastoral Committee

Date established by Governing Body: February 2017

Responsible Person – Mrs Sarah O’Kelly

Designated role – Assistant Head Teacher

Chair of Governors signature – Jeremy Griffith

Review Date – 14-12-2022

Next Review – Autumn Term 2025

Policy Version Control

Version	Date	Page	Section	Reason for review	Summary of Amendment	Chair of Governor's signature
1	22-09-22	All	All	WG guidance update	New name for policy and update	Jeremy Griffith 14/12/22

DRAFT

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

Humans are social beings and healthy relationships are a vital component of establishing and maintaining good physical, mental and emotional health. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) explores the ways in which a diverse range of social, cultural, technological and biological influences affect the ability to form and maintain positive relationships. Understanding how relationships are formed, developed and maintained enables us to develop the skills and attitudes that allow us to create healthy relationships of our own. It supports young people to develop the knowledge and skills needed to effectively navigate changing influences and establish respectful, fulfilling relationships throughout their lives. These may include family relationships, friendships, professional relationships and sexual relationships. RSE is an important element in creating a whole school approach to supporting overall physical, mental and emotional health and well-being.

RSE is a positive and protective part of the Curriculum for Wales. It plays a central role in supporting learners' rights to enjoy fulfilling, healthy and safe relationships throughout their lives.

RSE should support learners to develop the knowledge, skills and values to understand how relationships and sexuality shape their own lives and the lives of others. Learners should be equipped and empowered to seek support on issues relating to RSE and to advocate for self and others.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

RSE at QEH School aims to equip children and young people with the information, skills and values they need to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being. RSE should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of

society and preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY

This policy has been developed in line with guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government Circular No. 019/2010 (Sex and Relationships Education in Schools). Several other documents were also used to support the writing of this policy, including:

- The Sexual Health and Wellbeing in Wales Action Plan (2010–2015)
- Education Act (1996)
- Curriculum for Wales guidance, Welsh Government (2020)
- The Curriculum for Wales – Relationships and Sexuality Education Code (2021)
- International technical guidance on sexuality education, UNSECO (2018)
- Relationships and Sexuality Education Consultation, Welsh Government (2021)
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)

This policy reflects the process of consultation and discussion on this issue undertaken during the summer term. Representative groups involved in the consultation included the pupils, through the mechanism of the School Council, parents, school governors, and members of the school's staff. There was also external agency involvement through our links to Healthy School's and the Police school Liaison officer.

Our school will annually review the policy and is committed to following any new guidance received from Carmarthenshire County Council or Welsh Government.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school.

LEGISLATION ON RSE

The Education Act 2010

QEH School plays a central role in having a positive and sustained impact on children and young people's sexual health and well-being. All learners in QEH will receive high-quality relationships and sexuality education (RSE) as part of their personal and social development in line with the Education Act which states that all maintained secondary schools are required under section 101(1)(c) of the Education Act 2002 to include, as part of the 'basic curriculum' of the school, sex education for all registered pupils. In addition to this all maintained schools are required by section 404 of the Education Act 1996 to keep an up to date policy.

The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021

The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 sets out RSE as a mandatory element that spans the 3-16 learning continuum.

The Equality Act 2010

As a school we are required to comply with relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010. In compliance with this act, we will focus on key issues of concern and how to improve outcomes for all learners, including identifying where we can take action to advance equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations, and where possible, mitigate negative impacts which may result from decisions.

In line with this act, the delivery of RSE will be objective, critical, and pluralistic as to its content and manner of teaching. We will provide a range of views, including faith and non-religious views, on a given subject, commonly held within society. This also means providing a range of factual information on RSE issues.

When designing and teaching RSE the RSE curriculum, as a school we will consider the makeup of their own body of learners, including their gender and age range, and consider whether it is appropriate or necessary to put in place additional support for learners with particular protected characteristics (which mean that they are potentially at greater risk). We will work to foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between learners, and provide an environment, which challenges perceived limits based on their gender or any other characteristic, including through curriculum areas and as part of a whole-school approach.

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

Our curriculum will comply with the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 as we will provide an environment where positive attitudes towards gender equality and healthy, respectful relationships can be fostered through a rights-based approach. This will include adopting a whole school approach to include preventative education and involvement of the wider community.

RSE will be a mandatory requirement in the Curriculum for Wales for all learners from age 3 to 16 ("the Act"). This means that all learners must receive this education. There is no right to withdraw from RSE in the new curriculum.

(WG: RSE Consultation 2021)

RELATED POLICIES

This Policy needs to be read alongside some of the school's other policies;

- 1) Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- 2) Pupil Rewards & Discipline
- 3) Anti-Bullying Policy
- 4) Internet Safety Policy

5) Equal Opportunities Policy

RESPONSIBILITY FOR RSE

The Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher with designated responsibility and Personal Development and Community Coordinators are responsible for monitoring standards of teaching and learning in RSE.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING RSE

Pupil, Staff and Parent/Carer voice will be used as an evaluative tool to support the development of the RSE programme. The outcomes of Pupil, Staff and Parent/Carer voice will be used to continually develop the RSE programme to suit the needs of all of our learners.

SAFEGUARDING AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The RSE programme will be delivered in line with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Ground rules will be established prior to the delivery of the RSE programme in order to protect learners and teaching staff.

Teachers will not promise confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, it will be discussed with the Child Protection Officer. The request will be honoured unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:

- Child Protection
- Co-operation with a police investigation
- Referral to external service

Every effort will be made to secure the pupils agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information.

As a general rule, a child's or parent's confidentiality will be maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. However, there are confidentiality issues that arise if a child divulges a safeguarding issue. A child may only feel confident to confide in a member of staff if they feel that the information will not be divulged to anyone else. However all staff at the school have a professional responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with the designated Child Protection Officer or statutory agencies when a child is experiencing child welfare concerns. It is important that each member of staff deals with this sensitively and explains to the child that they must inform the appropriate people who can help the child, but they will only tell those who need to know in order to be able to help. Staff should reassure the child and tell them that their situation will not be common knowledge within the school and discussed with other member of staff.

WHAT DOES GOOD QUALITY RSE LOOK LIKE?

'Effective school RSE programmes help learners to develop the skills and knowledge appropriate to their age, understanding and development. Learners are enabled to make responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health and well-being'.

THE RSE CURRICULUM AND HOW IT WILL IMPLEMENTED

Content

The school will give learners the opportunity to explore a wide range of social, cultural, technological and biological influences that can affect their lives and their ability to form and maintain positive relationships using the Curriculum for Wales – Relationships and Sexuality Education Code (2021) and the UNESCO technical guidance for support (2018). The code maps out progression for 3-16 year olds across three strands:

- Relationships and Identity
- Sexual Health and Well-being
- Empowerment, Safety and Respect

Delivery

The RSE programme will be taught by class teachers, with some involvement of external agencies to enrich the programme. Pupils will engage with a variety of materials as part of the programme, including diagrams, images, video clips and reading materials. Materials will also be developed along with aspects of the Science and Technology and Health and Wellbeing areas of learning.

We will encourage pupils not to ask personal questions of each other or the staff involved. Pupils will also be encouraged to discuss the lessons with their parents/carers and also parents/carers will be encouraged to instigate discussions about the classes with their children. The teachers and outside agencies involved will attempt to deal with questions in a sensitive, open, frank and matter of fact way. The subject will be dealt with in a sensitive, but informative manner. Due care and attention will be paid to matching teaching to the maturity of the pupils involved.

RSE FOR ALL - EQUALITY

At QEHS, we promote equality for all. We will not discriminate in providing education and access to any benefit, service or facility either directly or indirectly, against anyone with a protected characteristic. We will not discriminate on the grounds of:

- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief

- ❓ sex
- ❓ sexual orientation
- ❓ the Welsh language in Wales.

As an employer and provider of services QEH School will not unlawfully discriminate on grounds of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity or on the grounds of Welsh language.

All pupils, their parents and guardians, volunteers, staff and school governors are valued and will be treated with dignity and respect. The school will not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

We will work across our school community to ensure our commitment to equality and fairness is shared and take steps to ensure that our school is accessible, welcoming and inclusive.

PUPIL VOICE IN RSE

Pupils will participate in the evaluation of the RSE programme. Pupils will contribute through pupil voice activities such as questionnaires, pupil panels, school council meetings and discussions, which will in turn feed into whole school self-evaluation. This will be used as an evaluative tool to support the development of the RSE programme.

WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

Queen Elizabeth High School believes that Relationships and Sexuality Education should be a shared responsibility. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation and are happy to discuss teaching materials with parents/carers prior to teaching the lessons.

This policy is available to parents/carers via the school website and if parents/carers wish to receive further information they can contact the school directly.

WORKING WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES

External agencies will be used to enrich our RSE programme and bring in specialist knowledge and experience. External agencies will be provided with a copy of the school's RSE policy and be made aware of their role within the programme.

ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BODY

1. It is the statutory duty of the Governing Body to have a policy on Relationships and Sexuality education and to review this annually. This task is delegated to the Curriculum and Staffing Committee;
2. Governors will have regard to the views of parents, other professionals, the Welsh Government and other relevant bodies in drawing up and reviewing its policy.

3. The Governing Body will select one of its number to have a particular interest in and to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the policy

SUPPORTING GUIDANCE

The following national and local guidance has been used in the compilation of this policy:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/curriculum-for-wales-relationships-sexuality-education-code.pdf>

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-02/relationships-and-sexuality-education-in-schools-guidance.pdf>

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-05/consultation-document-relationships-and-sexuality-education-guidance-and-code_0.pdf

<https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/35fae761-054b-4e9b-928c-03e86b3e207f/personal-and-social-education-framework.pdf>

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260770/PDF/260770eng.pdf.multi>

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/summary-of-legislation/#relationships-and-sexuality-education>

https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC_united_nations_convention_on_the_rights_of_the_child.pdf