

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY



CONTEXT

Gartree High School in Leicestershire is a popular 11-16 coeducational school. The (approximately) 800 students come from Oadby, its surrounding villages, and into Leicester. A variety of backgrounds are represented within its catchment, including diversity within their social, cultural and spiritual identities.

GUIDANCE

Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) at Gartree takes guidance from a wealth of sources. These include (but are not limited to):

- Department for Education: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education
- Department for Education Citizenship Programmes of Study: Key Stages 3 & 4 National Curriculum in England (September 2013)
- PSHE Association: PSHE Education Programme of Study Key Stages 1-5 (2017)
- Citizenship Foundation: Resources (2017)

Following changes to the curriculum in 1994, 2000, 2017 and 2019, RSE provision has been made compulsory for students, and as such Gartree offers some context as a statutory requirement, and others as a matter of course through its PSHE schemes of learning.

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

Gartree High School acknowledges the impact of social, moral, spiritual and cultural values on their students' experiences within RSE. Schemes treat topics with sensitivity and aim to deliver information which can help a young person make the decision which is *right for them*. It is not the aim of the school to promote any single ideology or opinion. RSE is *not* about the promotion of sexual activity amongst young people. The school will make frequent reference to the legal requirements and the health impacts of their choices. Where such topics occur, they are frequently delivered with advice for students to discuss the matters further at home with a parent, care-giver or trusted adult such as a spiritual leader (if applicable). All content is delivered in a format which the school deems age-appropriate based on its experience with our young people and their needs. This will largely be based on the guidance listed above, but may also move topics up or down by one year to respond to any emerging or contemporary issues, such as those which have been identified as beneficial to the pastoral requirements of the young people in our care.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & DIVERSITY

In accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy, a broad and balanced RSE programme is provided for all students, including those with disabilities, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and English as an Additional Language (EAL). Much of the content may be delivered through the medium of online video resources, to ensure unification within all lessons across all year-groups as the students' progress. SEN provision is met through combined efforts of the Learning Support, PSHE and Science curricula teams. All lessons containing culturally-sensitive content, or topics which may have opposing views are presented in an unbiased way, and are prefaced with advice to talk to a trusted adult at home, or spiritual leader for further guidance.

RSE WITHIN THE CURRICULUM

RSE issues may be covered across the school, and the surrounding issues might be mentioned in any of the schemes of learning. This might be to respond to key RSE issues as they arise, or are referred to in lesson objectives as outlined in other policy documents, should they arise.

RSE is *taught definitively* within three key lesson pathways:

1. Years 7, 8 and 9 students are taught RSE within their PSHE lessons which take place during timetabled lessons for all Key Stage 3 students
2. Key Stage 4 students may access support and guidance from PSHE staff, the Pastoral Team, School Nurse or Counsellor, in-line with policy
3. As part of the Science curriculum, students in Key Stage 3 study Biological Reproduction in Year 7, followed by Inherited Characteristics in Year 9, then Human Reproduction and Hormones in Year 11. In accordance with direction under the National Curriculum, these lessons are statutory for all students.

ORGANISATION OF RSE CURRICULUM

Year 7 Citizenship – Topic 7 of 8 – RSE (Puberty)

- Body changes during puberty
- Puberty in boys and girls
- Periods and pregnancy
- Independence and relationships

NB: Students will access images of basic, illustrated genitalia and bodies

Year 8 Citizenship – Topic 3 of 7 – RSE (Commitment & Health)

- Gender and identity
- Sex Education
- HIV, AIDS and STIs (including other STIs and a basic introduction to the concept of contraception)
- Commitment

NB: Students will access illustrated genital diagrams

Year 9 PSHE – Topic 3 of 6 – RSE (Life Lessons)

- Normal
- Choices, Expectations & Contraception
- The Three Rs – Romance, Recreation & Reproduction
- Pornography & Sexting
- Consent & Expectations
- Abuse & E Safety
- Health Concerns - Including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and BSE/TSE awareness

NB: Students will be introduced to images of full frontal nudity taken from Channel 4's Sex Education Show. They will be given the option to be trained in identifying contraception and its safe use (should they ever decide to use it) using lesson resources from the Health Education Company. Lastly, they will learn how to check for cancer and lumps using latex BSE and TSE models.

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DIALOGUE

Respect is an essential part of all RSE lessons at Gartree. All lessons start with establishing clear ground rules about behaviour, language and conduct.

As students are introduced to RSE they are also told to be careful about what personal and sensitive information they share. Students are encouraged to engage abstractedly, rather than share their own experiences.

From time to time, explicit questions may arise from students in the course of their learning, and as such teachers will exercise professional judgement when responding to all questions – with the aim of identifying truths and dispelling myths.

WORKING WITH PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Parents are informed about RSE lessons in the course of each academic year, via a letter home. Parents wishing to learn more about the content of these lessons should contact the Head of PSHE or Head of Year who might arrange to see copies of lesson resources at their discretion.

WITHDRAWAL

Although RSE content taught within PSHE lessons are statutory, and the school believes that this lesson content is important to the development of young people, it recognises that the personal liberty of families to withdraw their child from these lessons exists. As such, students are enrolled in these lessons automatically, but parents and guardians who wish for their child to be removed must contact the Headteacher in writing, directly to discuss their request. If the Headteacher grants a request for withdrawal, non-participants will be managed by their PSHE teacher away from the lesson, and follow Citizenship content not connected with RSE.

Families may withdraw a child from all lessons under the topic of 'Sex Education'. Lessons under 'Relationships Education' and 'Health Education' are mandatory for all students, to help them remain healthy members of the class.

Legislation now allows students who have historically been withdrawn from RSE lessons to receive Sex Education lessons upon their own request up to three terms before the child turns 16. This caveat is met by the option to attend additional RSE lessons in the first term of Year 11.

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

The full policy is available to members of staff, parents, visitors, the Local Authority and to OFSTED via the school website and upon request to the Headteacher.

POLICY CHANGE

Consultation of the RSE Policy allows input from students, parents, staff and the wider community. Stakeholders are invited to participate in sharing their views, to inform the provision of RSE at Gartree. They may also be able to access a selection of resources upon invitation.

REVIEW BY GOVERNING BODY

November 2020