



**RYDE SCHOOL
WITH UPPER CHINE**

RSE Policy Statement

Policy date:	Summer Term 2023	
Date of next review:	Summer Term 2024	
Owner(s):	JCH	
Approval body:	Head Master	
Intended audience:	Pupils, parents and staff	
ISI Regulatory Paragraph No:	2A	
Location (tick as appropriate):	Website	✓
	Parent Portal	
	Staff Portal	
	Inspection folder	✓

This policy should be read in conjunction with other Ryde School policies, in particular the Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Personal Development Policy. The teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is a partnership between home and school. As a school we aim to provide a safe and respectful environment to learn about RSE which supports and complements the vital role of the parent or carer.

RSE at Ryde aims to promote healthy relationships and to allow pupils space to explore their own thoughts, feelings and experiences and to develop empathy towards, and an understanding of, others with different feelings, beliefs and identities. We recognise that our pupil body is very diverse and the RSE curriculum aims to support all pupils equally and to encourage the celebration of diversity.

Method of delivery

Most of the School's RSE is directly taught through PD lessons; this will sometimes be with a pupil's form tutor and at other times with a specialist teacher. However, RSE is also taught in most assemblies or chapel services and in a range of other lessons, for example in Biology, RE, English, PE and History and is also embedded at all times through our school culture, rules and policies. At times, RSE delivery is enhanced through bringing in outside speakers. The well-being centre also plays a key role in provision of physical and sexual health, including by offering confidential advice on sexual health within the Safeguarding Children guidelines. The School's Coaching Programme aims to embed a positive social culture where pupils and staff can talk openly about how they feel and take action where they see need.

Themes in RSE

Topics covered are age appropriate and therefore delivery to younger pupils focuses more on development of healthy relationships, physical changes in the body and the mechanics of reproduction, whilst delivery to older pupils will focus more on the dynamics of sexual relationships, sexual health and consent. The following list of themes is intended to give an overview of some of the RSE themes covered at the school but is not exhaustive and the provision of RSE is responsive to the needs and questions of pupils and to the current issues and events affecting our community and beyond. A full scheme of work is available upon request.

- Developing healthy relationships and how to refuse, report or reject unhealthy ones.
- The consequences, benefits and risks associated with sexual behaviour including sexual health and making responsible choices about the use of contraception.
- The physical and neurological changes that occur in young people during puberty and their impact on emotions, relationships, and behaviours of young people and those around them.
- The importance of consent in relationships, including how it is given and refused.
- Developing healthy and safe online relationships and being aware of risks in this area, including communicating with strangers, viewing pornography, and publishing or sharing personal information, including but not limited to sexual content.
- Celebrating diversity as well as understanding and responding to prejudice, including but not limited to discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability and sexual orientation.
- The law relating to sexual activity as well as producing, viewing and sharing sexual images, and in particular the law as it relates to young people.

Participation

All pupils are expected to participate fully in RSE lessons, though we are sensitive to the needs of each individual student and family and will work with parents and guardians to ensure that all pupils feel comfortable in their PD lessons. Anyone with concerns should contact their Head of Section in the first instance. If parents wish to withdraw their child from the Sex Education then they must discuss this with the Head Master and records will be kept as evidence. Note that a student who is three terms away from his or her 16th birthday may make this choice independently of the parent. In this case, the student will be able to access at least one term of sex education.

Feedback

Relationships and Sex Education is a dynamic area and the school will continue to monitor and evaluate our RSE provision through pupil, staff and parental feedback, and make changes where necessary.

In drafting this policy statement, we had regard to the DfE's guidance on Sex and Relationships Education.