CAMBRIAN
Nurturing Growth - Inspiring Minds

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Policy (RSHE)

King Alfred's Academy

This document applies to all academies and operations of the Cambrian Learning Trust who must have a written policy for Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education which is developed in line with the latest government guidance. These should be read in conjunction with schools' Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) policies.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education

The policy must meet the needs of the community it serves, be consulted upon with parents/carers, published on school websites and be available as a paper copy for anyone who requests it. The last consultation round was during Spring term 2026.

www.cambrianlearningtrust.org

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1. Aims

The aims of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (RSHE) 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, respectful culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

Our Trust values of integrity, kindness, ambition and unity are woven throughout and are integral to our delivery of RSHE.

2. Statutory requirements

In our primary schools, we 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 secondary schools.

Currently, we do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including the requirements to teach science. This would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum at primary level. (See Appendix 5)

In teaching RSHE, we are 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

At Cambrian Learning Trust we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy Development

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

1. Review – the central Trust education team pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance, consulted with Head teachers who worked in their settings to consult with staff, pupils and parents/carers locally

2. Staff consultation – staff across all schools were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations

3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents/carers were invited to provide feedback about the policy and the school's proposed curriculum at their respective schools

4. Pupil consultation – schools asked pupil groups what they want from their RSHE

5. Ratification – the policy was shared with the board of trustees for ratification and communicated to local governing committees.

4. Curriculum and Delivery

Our RSHE curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

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. The NSPCC is recommended as a reliable source of information for students and parents.

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

RSHE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects such as respect for others are included in religious education (RE).

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: children we care for 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 mis-use of drugs and illicit drugs.

Relationships Education

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 and media
- Being safe
- Preparing children for the changes that adolescence brings

We aim to offer pupils a carefully planned programme on relationships; the primary focus of this will be on the teaching of fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive, healthy relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships and relationships with other children and adults.

Part of learning about relationships will involve learning about what a relationship is, what a friendship is, what family means and who the people are that can support pupils. When learning about relationships, pupils will also be taught about respect for others in an age-appropriate way.

The teaching of positive relationships will also be applied to the teaching of online relationships so that online safety and appropriate behaviour can be taught in a way which is relevant to the age of the pupils.

When learning about families, teachers will use their knowledge of pupils and their circumstances so that content is taught in a sensitive and well-judged manner.

The Relationships education element of RSHE provides an opportunity for pupils to be taught about positive emotional wellbeing, including how friendship can support mental wellbeing.

In learning about relationships, there are also opportunities to develop pupils' understanding of self-respect and self-worth as well as other positive personal

attributes such as honesty, integrity, courage, humility, kindness, generosity, trustworthiness and a sense of justice.

Through the teaching of relationships, pupils will also be taught the knowledge they need to recognise and report abuse. In our school, this will be delivered by focusing on boundaries and privacy.

Sex Education

Sex education is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of pupils.

Sex education in primary school is designed to prepare children for the changes that adolescence brings.

Sex education classes are usually delivered by the pupils' class teacher or a teacher that is familiar to the class.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing children for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born (typically taught in upper Key Stage 2 – ages 9 to 11)

Typically, pupils will learn about the changes that adolescence brings during Key Stage 2 (ages 7 to 11). Prior to this teaching, fundamental learning will take place so that pupils are able to understand the changes which are explored and have the appropriate vocabulary to be able to discuss these. This may include learning about the names for parts of the body.

Teaching in sex education will draw on learning from the Science curriculum (see Appendix 5 for an overview of the primary science curriculum).

Learning about how a baby is conceived and born is usually taught in upper Key Stage 2.

Health Education (also see schools' PSHE policies)

Through RSHE, pupils are also taught the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing.

Pupils will learn about the benefits and importance of daily exercise, good nutrition and sufficient sleep.

Pupils will also learn about the steps that they can take to protect and support their own and others' health and wellbeing, including simple self-care, personal hygiene, prevention of health and wellbeing problems and basic first aid.

In addition, pupils will be taught about the benefits of hobbies, interests and participation in their own communities and how these can be beneficial to health and wellbeing.

All pupils will be taught about the risks of excessive use of electronic devices and the benefits of rationing time spent on them.

In later primary years, pupils will be taught why social media, computer games and online games have age restrictions.

Pupils will also be taught how to manage difficulties encountered online.

Inclusivity

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

- Considers how within a diverse range of pupils it 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 adaptation needed

5. Equality

Our Equality Policy, which applies to all Trust schools, underpins our RSHE teaching. RSHE can act as a basis for promoting equality between individuals and groups. It necessarily involves an exploration of human and social diversity, and a fostering of self-esteem and self-worth in a learning environment that recognises and respects

difference. We work to ensure that RSHE is relevant and accessible to all pupils and is appropriate for all levels of understanding and maturity. RSHE will be respectful of how pupils choose to identify themselves with regard to their emerging sexual orientation and gender identity.

6. 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 RSHE 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

7. Use of external organisations and materials

Across our Trust, we will make sure that any agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

We remain responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used do not 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 RSHE 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

Our schools **won't**, under any circumstances:

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

8. Roles and responsibilities

8.1. The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees will approve the RSHE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation through the CEO.

8.2. CEO

The CEO will work with the Director of Education to:

- Work with headteachers to make sure they can implement the policy in their school by providing advice and support where required
- Report to the board of trustees on any issues with its implementation across the trust

8.3. Local Governing Committees

Local governing committees work with school leaders to monitor the delivery of this policy and are responsible for supporting its implementation at their school and reporting issues to the CEO if they occur.

8.4. The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently well 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 RSHE (see section 9).

8.5. Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSHE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSHE
- Monitoring progress through observation and marking to ensure children have learnt the curriculum
- 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 RSHE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

In this school the named persons responsible for RSHE are Jake Wilson and Lucy Flexen.

Jake Wilson and Lucy Flexen are responsible for the coordination and oversight of the PSHE/RSHE curriculum. Tutors deliver the RSHE content to their allocated tutor groups.

8.6. Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSHE and, when discussing issues related to RSHE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

9. Parents'/carers' right to withdraw

Primary settings

Across our primary schools, parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

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

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.

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

Secondary settings

Across our secondary schools, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSHE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

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.

10. Training

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

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

11. Monitoring arrangements

The RSHE teaching programme is reviewed regularly taking into account the outcome of monitoring and evaluation carried out by our school's PSHE Coordinator and the Senior Leadership Team. Monitoring may be in the form of:

- Pupil voice conversations and written surveys regarding the teaching content and methods;
- RSHE staff voice and surveys regarding the teaching content and methods;
- Planning/training sessions between RSHE staff and PSHE Coordinator;
- Learning walks to observe teaching and learning;
- Scrutiny of teacher planning

Pupil development in RSHE is monitored by class teachers and PSHE Coordinators as part of our internal assessment systems and through day-to-day work by school leaders and pastoral teams. It may be evident through:

- Knowledge gained and the understanding of information and issues addressed in RSHE;
- Evidence of pupils' increased sense of responsibility and respectful attitudes towards each other, as monitored by senior pastoral staff;
- A decrease in recorded instances of homophobia, sexual bullying, sexist graffiti and the casual use of derogatory language, particularly with sexual or gender meanings, as monitored by senior pastoral staff.

The information above will support our review of this policy every year. This will be led by the Director of Education. Further consultation will be carried out with staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors where necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the policy as a working document. Policy amendments will be approved by the Trust Board.

Appendix 1: Curriculum Map

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education curriculum map for King Alfred's Academy. **Non-Statutory sex education content from which parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children highlighted in yellow.**

PSHE Plan	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Term 1					
14th September	Welcome to KA and Wellbeing	British Values and Liberties	British Values and Liberties	British Values and Liberties	British Values and Liberties
28th September	Talking about Emotions	Introducing Justice and Rules	Introducing Justice and Rules	Introducing Justice and Rules	Introducing Justice and Rules
12th October	Healthy Friendships and Interactions	Stereotypes and Discrimination	Stereotypes and Discrimination	Stereotypes and Discrimination	
Term 2					
16th November	Combating Bullying and Bystanders	Combating Bullying and Bystanders	Combating Bullying and Bystanders	Combating Bullying and Bystanders	Stereotypes and Discrimination
30th November	Introducing Justice and Rules	Harassment and Sexual Behaviour	Harassment and Sexual Behaviour	Harassment and Sexual Behaviour	Harassment and Sexual Behaviour
14th November	Families and Committed Relations	Power and Gender Based Violence	Power and Gender Based Violence	Power and Gender Based Violence	Power and Gender Based Violence
Term 3					
11th January	Personal Boundaries and Identifying Abuse	Brain Development and Sleep	Brain Development and Sleep	Serious Health and Physical Screening	Serious Health and Physical Screening
25th January	Puberty and Changing Bodies	Healthier Life Decisions	Healthier Life Decisions	Social Media, Digital Validation and Mental Health	Social Media, Digital Validation and Mental Health
8th February	Menstrual Health and Wellbeing	Preventative Health: Dental Care, Skin and Routine Checks	Preventative Health: Dental Care, Skin and Routine Checks	Behaviour Addiction: Gaming and Gambling	Behaviour Addiction: Gaming and Gambling
Term 4					
1st March	Peer Influence and Risk	Public Institutions and Community	Public Institutions and Community	AI Risks	AI Risks
15th March	Tobacco and Vaping	Basic First Aid	Basic First Aid	Pornography, Deepfakes & Online Misogyny	Pornography, Deepfakes & Online Misogyny
Term 5					

12th April	Travel, Road and Water Safety	Alcohol: Law & Toxicity	Alcohol: Law & Toxicity	Assessing Readiness for Sex and Intimacy	Assessing Readiness for Sex and Intimacy
26th April	Stereotypes and Discrimination	Identify, Bias and Stereotypes	Identify, Bias and Stereotypes	Sexual Health, STIs and Modern Care	Sexual Health, STIs and Modern Care
10th May	Digital Spaces and Footprints	Disagreements and Tolerance	Disagreements and Tolerance	Pregnancy and Choices	Pregnancy and Choices
24th May	Screen Time and Balance	Online Harassment and Abuse	Online Harassment and Abuse	Image Sharing Laws and Digital Coercion	Image Sharing Laws and Digital Coercion
Term 6					
14th June	Democracy and UK Parliament	Money, Consumer Choices Risk and Budgeting	Money, Consumer Choices Risk and Budgeting	Active Citizenship and Community Action	
28th June	Elections and Political Action	Online Financial Risks	Online Financial Risks	Work Experience: Workplace Health, Safety and Conduct	
12th July	Review of the Year	Saving, Borrowing and Debt	Saving, Borrowing and Debt	Work Experience: CVs, Reflection and Application Skills	

Appendix 2: What pupils should know

By end of primary school

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	• That families are important for children growing up safe and happy because they can provide love, security and stability. • The characteristics of safe and happy family life, such as 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 the families of other children, 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 are at the heart of safe and happy families and are important for children's security as they grow up. • That marriage and civil partnerships represent 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	• How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends. • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded. Pupils should learn skills for developing caring, kind friendships. • That not every child will have the friends they would like at all times, that most people feel lonely sometimes, and that there is no shame in feeling lonely or talking about it. • The characteristics of friendships that lead to happiness and security, including mutual respect, honesty, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences, and support with problems and difficulties. • That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened. • How to manage conflict, and that resorting to violence is never right. • How to recognise when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, and how to get support when needed.
Respectful relationships	• How to pay attention to the needs and preferences of others, including in families and friendships. Pupils should be encouraged to discuss how we balance the needs and wishes of different people in relationships and why this can be complicated. • The importance of setting and respecting healthy boundaries in relationships with friends, family, peers and adults.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• How to communicate effectively and manage conflict with kindness and respect; how to be assertive and express needs and boundaries; how to manage feelings, including disappointment and frustration. • Pupils should have opportunities to discuss the difference between being assertive and being controlling, and conversely the difference between being kind to other people and neglecting your own needs. • That they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and the importance of respecting others, including those who are different (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices, or have different preferences or beliefs. • Practical steps they can take and skills they can develop in a range of different contexts to improve or support their relationships. • The conventions of courtesy and manners. • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness. Pupils should have opportunities to think about how they foster their own self-esteem and build a strong sense of their own identity, including through developing skills and interests. • The different types of bullying (including online bullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult), and how to get help. • What a stereotype is, how stereotypes can be unfair, negative, destructive or lead to bullying and how to challenge a stereotype. • How to seek help when needed, including when they are concerned about violence, harm, or when they are unsure who to trust.
Online relationships	• That people should be respectful in online interactions, and that the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including where people are anonymous. For example, the importance of avoiding putting pressure on others to share information and images online, and strategies for resisting peer pressure. • How to critically evaluate their online relationships and sources of information, including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met. For example, that people sometimes behave differently online, including pretending to be someone else, or pretending to be a child, and that this can lead to dangerous situations. How to recognise harmful content or harmful contact, and how to report this. • That there is a minimum age for joining social media sites (currently 13), which protects children from inappropriate content or unsafe contact with older social media users, who may be strangers, including other children and adults. • The importance of exercising caution about sharing any information about themselves online. Understanding the importance of privacy and location settings to protect information online. • Online risks, including that any material provided online might be circulated, and that once a picture or words has been circulated there is no way of deleting it everywhere and no control over where it ends up. • That the internet contains a lot of content that can be inappropriate and upsetting for children, and where to go for advice and support when they feel worried or concerned about something they have seen or engaged with online.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including online). This can include learning about boundaries in play and in negotiations about space, toys, books, resources etc. • The concept of privacy and its implications 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 contact, including physical contact. • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online), including those they do and do not know. • How to recognise when a relationship is harmful or dangerous, including skills for recognising who to trust and who not to trust. • How to report abuse, concerns about something seen online or experienced in real life, or feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so. • How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard. Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.

By end of secondary school

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	• That there are different types of committed, stable relationships • How these relationships might contribute to wellbeing, and their importance for bringing up children. • Why marriage or civil partnership is an important relationship choice for many couples. The legal status of marriage and civil partnership, including that they carry legal rights, benefits and protections that are not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have, for example, undergone a non-legally binding religious ceremony. • That 'common-law marriage' is a myth, and cohabitants do not obtain marriage-like status or rights from living together or by having children. • That forced marriage and marrying before the age of 18 are illegal. • How families and relationships change over time, including through birth, death, separation and new relationships.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising children, including the characteristics of successful parenting and the importance of the early years of a child's life for brain development. • How to judge when a relationship is unsafe and where to seek help when needed, including when pupils are concerned about violence, harm, or when they are unsure who to trust.
Respectful relationships, including friendships	• The characteristics of positive relationships of all kinds, online and offline, including romantic relationships. For example, pupils should understand the role of consent, trust, mutual respect, honesty, kindness, loyalty, shared interests and outlooks, generosity, boundaries, tolerance, privacy, and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. • How to evaluate their impact on other people and treat others with kindness and respect, including in public spaces and including strangers. Pupils should understand the legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality, and that everyone is unique and equal. • The importance of self-esteem, independence and having a positive relationship with oneself, and how these characteristics support healthy relationships with others. This includes developing one's own interests, hobbies, friendship groups, and skills. Pupils should understand what it means to be treated with respect by others. • What tolerance requires, including the importance of tolerance of other people's beliefs. • The practical steps pupils can take and skills they can develop to support respectful and kind relationships. This includes skills for communicating respectfully within relationships and with strangers, including in situations of conflict. • The different types of bullying (including online bullying), the impact of bullying, the responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help. • Skills for ending relationships or friendships with kindness and managing the difficult feelings that endings might bring, including disappointment, hurt or frustration. • The role of consent, including in romantic and sexual relationships. Pupils should understand that ethical behaviour goes beyond consent and involves kindness, care, attention to the needs and vulnerabilities of the other person, as well as an awareness of power dynamics. Pupils should understand that just because someone says yes to doing something, that doesn't automatically make it ethically ok. • How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender reassignment, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g. how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice). Pupils should be equipped to recognise misogyny and other forms of prejudice. • How inequalities of power can impact behaviour within relationships, including sexual relationships. For example, how people who are disempowered can feel they are not entitled to be treated with respect by others or how those who enjoy an unequal amount of power might, with or without realising it, impose their preferences on others. • How pornography can negatively influence sexual attitudes and behaviours, including by normalising harmful sexual behaviours and by disempowering some people, especially women, to feel a sense of autonomy over their own body and providing some people with a sense of sexual entitlement to the bodies of others.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• Pupils should have an opportunity to discuss how some sub-cultures might influence our understanding of sexual ethics, including the sexual norms endorsed by so-called “involuntary celibates” (incels) or online influencers.
Online and media	• Rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online. • Online risks, including the importance of being cautious about sharing personal information online and of using privacy and location settings appropriately to protect information online. Pupils should also understand the difference between public and private online spaces and related safety issues. • The characteristics of social media, including that some social media accounts are fake, and / or may post things which aren’t real / have been created with AI. That social media users may say things in more extreme ways than they might in face-to-face situations, and that some users present highly exaggerated or idealised profiles of themselves online. • Not to provide material to others that they would not want to be distributed further and not to pass on personal material which is sent to them. Pupils should understand that any material provided online might be circulated, and that once this has happened there is no way of controlling where it ends up. Pupils should understand the serious risks of sending material to others, including the law concerning the sharing of images. • That keeping or forwarding indecent or sexual images of someone under 18 is a crime, even if the photo is of themselves or of someone who has consented, and even if the image was created by the child and/or using AI generated imagery. Pupils should understand the potentially serious consequences of acquiring or generating indecent or sexual images of someone under 18, including the potential for criminal charges and severe penalties including imprisonment. Pupils should know how to seek support and should understand that they will not be in trouble for asking for help, either at school or with the police, if an image of themselves has been shared. Pupils should also understand that sharing indecent images of people over 18 without consent is a crime. • What to do and how to report when they are concerned about material that has been circulated, including personal information, images or videos, and how to manage issues online • About the prevalence of deepfakes including videos and photos, how deepfakes can be used maliciously as well as for entertainment, the harms that can be caused by deepfakes and how to identify them. • That the internet contains inappropriate and upsetting content, some of which is illegal, including unacceptable content that encourages misogyny, violence or use of weapons. Pupils should be taught where to go for advice and support about something they have seen online. Pupils should understand that online content can present a distorted picture of the world and normalise or glamorise behaviours which are unhealthy and wrong. • That social media can lead to escalations in conflicts, how to avoid these escalations and where to go for help and advice. • How to identify when technology and social media is used as part of bullying, harassment, stalking, coercive and controlling behaviour, and other forms of abusive and/or illegal behaviour and how to seek support about concerns.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• That pornography, and other online content, often presents a distorted picture of people and their sexual behaviours and can negatively affect how people behave towards sexual partners. This can affect pupils who see pornographic content accidentally as well as those who see it deliberately. Pornography can also portray misogynistic behaviours and attitudes which can negatively influence those who see it. • How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online. • That websites may share personal data about their users, and information collected on their internet use, for commercial purposes (e.g. to enable targeted advertising). • That criminals can operate online scams, for example using fake websites or emails to extort money or valuable personal information. This information can be used to the detriment of the person or wider society. About risks of sextortion, how to identify online scams relating to sex, and how to seek support if they have been scammed or involved in sextortion. • That AI chatbots are an example of how AI is rapidly developing, and that these can pose risks by creating fake intimacy or offering harmful advice. It is important to be able to critically think about new types of technology as they appear online and how they might pose a risk.
Being safe	• How to recognise, respect and communicate consent and boundaries in relationships, including in early romantic relationships (in all contexts, including online) and early sexual relationships that might involve kissing or touching. That kindness and care for others requires more than just consent. • That there are a range of strategies for identifying, resisting and understanding pressure in relationships from peers or others, including sexual pressure, and how to avoid putting pressure on others. • How to determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy, how to judge when a relationship is unsafe (and recognise this in the relationships of others); how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed. • How to increase their personal safety in public spaces, including when socialising with friends, family, the wider community or strangers. Pupils should learn ways of seeking help when needed and how to report harmful behaviour. Pupils should understand that there are strategies they can use to increase their safety, and that this does not mean they will be blamed if they are victims of harmful behaviour. Pupils might reflect on the importance of trusting their instincts when something doesn't feel right, and should understand that in some situations a person might appear trustworthy but have harmful intentions. • What constitutes sexual harassment or sexual violence, and that such behaviour is unacceptable, emphasising that it is never the fault of the person experiencing it. • That sexual harassment includes unsolicited sexual language / attention / touching, taking and/or sharing intimate or sexual images without consent, public sexual harassment, pressuring other people to do sexual things, and upskirting. • The concepts and laws relating to sexual violence, including rape and sexual assault.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• The concepts and laws relating to harmful sexual behaviour, which includes all types of sexual harassment and sexual violence among young people but also includes other forms of concerning behaviour like using age-inappropriate sexual language. • The concepts and laws relating to domestic abuse, including controlling or coercive behaviour, emotional, sexual, economic or physical abuse, and violent or threatening behaviour. • That fixated, obsessive, unwanted and repeated behaviours can be criminal, and where to get help if needed. • The concepts and laws relating to harms which are exploitative, including sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and abuse, grooming, and financial exploitation. • The concepts and laws relating to forced marriage. • The physical and emotional damage which can be caused by female genital mutilation (FGM), virginity testing and hymenoplasty, where to find support, and the law around these areas. This should include that it is a criminal offence for anyone to perform or assist in the performance of FGM, virginity testing or hymenoplasty, in the UK or abroad, or to fail to protect a person under 16 for whom they are responsible. • That strangulation and suffocation are criminal offences, and that strangulation (applying pressure to the neck) is an offence, regardless of whether it causes injury. That any activity that involves applying force or pressure to someone's neck or covering someone's mouth and nose is dangerous and can lead to serious injury or death. • That pornography presents some activities as normal which many people do not and will never engage in, some of which can be emotionally and/or physically harmful. • How to seek support for their own worrying or abusive behaviour or for worrying or abusive behaviour they have experienced from others, including information on where to report abuse, and where to seek medical attention when required, for example after an assault.
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	• That sex, for people who feel ready and are over the age of consent, can and should be enjoyable and positive. • The law about the age of consent, that they have a choice about whether to have sex, that many young people wait until they are older, and that people of all ages can enjoy intimate and romantic relationships without sex. • Sexual consent and their capacity to give, withhold or remove consent at any time, even if initially given, as well as the considerations that people might take into account prior to sexual activity, e.g. the law, faith and family values. That kindness and care for others require more than just consent. • That all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, e.g. physical, emotional, mental, sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing. • That some sexual behaviours can be harmful.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
	• The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available, including male and female condoms, and signposting towards medically accurate online information about sexual and reproductive health to support contraceptive decision making. • That there are choices in relation to pregnancy. Pupils should be given medically and legally accurate and impartial information on all options, including keeping the baby, adoption, abortion and where to get further help. • How the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, are transmitted. How risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use). The use and availability of the HIV prevention drugs Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and how and where to access them. The importance of, and facts about, regular testing and the role of stigma • The prevalence of STIs, the short and long term impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment. • How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead people to take risks in their sexual behaviour. • How and where to seek support for concerns around sexual relationships including sexual violence or harms. • How to counter misinformation, including signposting towards medically accurate information and further advice, and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment.

Appendix 3: Withdrawal from non-statutory content within RSHE (that outside of the science curriculum) – Parent/Carer Form

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent/carer		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent/carer signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents/carers	

Appendix 5: Statutory Science Curriculum

"The programmes of study for science are set out year-by-year for Key Stages 1 and 2. Schools are, however, only required to teach the relevant programme of study by the end of the Key Stage. Within each Key Stage, schools therefore have the flexibility to introduce content earlier or later than set out in the programme of study. In addition, schools can introduce Key Stage content during an earlier Key Stage if appropriate." **National Curriculum**

KS2 – Year 5

Topic	Pupils should be taught:
Living things and their habitats	• describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird • describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals
Animals, including humans	• describe the changes as humans develop to old age

KS3

Topic	Pupils should be taught:
Biology - Reproduction	• reproduction in humans (as an example of a mammal), including the structure and function of the male and female reproductive systems, menstrual cycle (without details of hormones), gametes, fertilisation, gestation and birth, to include the effect of maternal lifestyle on the foetus through the placenta • reproduction in plants, including flower structure, wind and insect pollination, fertilisation, seed and fruit formation and dispersal, including quantitative investigation of some dispersal mechanisms

KS4

Topic	Pupils should be taught:
Cell Biology	• cells as the basic structural unit of all organisms; adaptations of cells related to their functions; the main sub-cellular structures of eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells • stem cells in animals and meristems in plants • enzymes

	• factors affecting the rate of enzymatic reactions • the importance of cellular respiration; the processes of aerobic and anaerobic respiration • carbohydrates, proteins, nucleic acids and lipids as key biological molecules
Transport Systems	• the need for transport systems in multicellular organisms, including plants • the relationship between the structure and functions of the human circulatory system
Health, disease and development of medicines	• the relationship between health and disease • communicable diseases including sexually transmitted infections in humans (including HIV/AIDs) • non-communicable diseases • bacteria, viruses and fungi as pathogens in animals and plants • body defences against pathogens and the role of the immune system against disease • reducing and preventing the spread of infectious diseases in animals and plants • the process of discovery and development of new medicines • the impact of lifestyle factors on the incidence of non-communicable diseases
Coordination and Control	• principles of nervous coordination and control in humans • the relationship between the structure and function of the human nervous system • the relationship between structure and function in a reflex arc • principles of hormonal coordination and control in humans • hormones in human reproduction, hormonal and non-hormonal methods of contraception • homeostasis
Photosynthesis	• photosynthesis as the key process for food production and therefore biomass for life • the process of photosynthesis • factors affecting the rate of photosynthesis
Ecosystems	• levels of organisation within an ecosystem • some abiotic and biotic factors which affect communities; the importance of interactions between organisms in a community

	• how materials cycle through abiotic and biotic components of ecosystems • the role of microorganisms (decomposers) in the cycling of materials through an ecosystem • organisms are interdependent and are adapted to their environment • the importance of biodiversity • methods of identifying species and measuring distribution, frequency and abundance of species within a habitat • positive and negative human interactions with ecosystems
Evolution, Inheritance and Variation	• the genome as the entire genetic material of an organism • how the genome, and its interaction with the environment, influence the development of the phenotype of an organism • the potential impact of genomics on medicine • most phenotypic features being the result of multiple, rather than single, genes • single gene inheritance and single gene crosses with dominant and recessive phenotypes • sex determination in humans • genetic variation in populations of a species • the process of natural selection leading to evolution • the evidence for evolution • developments in biology affecting classification • the importance of selective breeding of plants and animals in agriculture • the uses of modern biotechnology including gene technology; some of the practical and ethical considerations of modern biotechnology