



## Relationships and Sexual Health Education

### POLICY

**NOVEMBER 2025**

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**Review Cycle: Annually**

**Responsible Body: Whinstone Governing Body**

**Agreed in draft for ratification Autumn Term**

#### Version Control

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## Introduction

This policy outlines Spark Education Trust's approach to delivering Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) across all schools within our Trust. It is informed by the Department for Education's Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance (July 2025) and will be followed from September 2025.

## Legal Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with:

- Education Act 2002, Section 80A
- Education Act 1996, Section 403
- Department for Education statutory guidance: Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (July 2025)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- Equality Act 2010
- Other relevant Trust policies (Safeguarding, SEND, Online Safety & Behaviour).

## Aims and Objectives

The aims of RSHE at Spark Education Trust are to:

- Provide a comprehensive, age-appropriate curriculum that reflects pupils' needs and experiences.
- Promote the physical, emotional, and social development of pupils.
- Equip pupils with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their health and relationships.
- Foster a safe and supportive environment for discussing sensitive issues.
- Ensure teaching is inclusive, respectful, and sensitive to diverse beliefs and backgrounds.

## Curriculum Content

### Relationships Education

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

### Health Education

- Mental wellbeing

- Internet safety and harms, including AI and deepfakes
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid
- The changing adolescent body
- Suicide prevention and self-harm awareness

## Teaching and Learning Strategies

RSHE will be taught using:

- Class discussions and debates
- Group work and role-playing
- Multimedia resources
- Guest speakers and external agencies where appropriate
- Interactive workshops

Teachers will establish ground rules to ensure discussions remain appropriate, respectful, and safe.

## Guiding Principles

RSHE delivery is underpinned by:

1. Engagement with pupils to ensure relevance
2. Engagement and transparency with families, providing access to materials
3. Positivity, promoting healthy relationships and lifestyles
4. Careful sequencing of age-appropriate topics
5. Relevance and responsiveness to pupil needs
6. Skilled delivery and staff training
7. Whole school approach embedding RSHE in all aspects of school life

## Inclusion and Equality

- RSHE is inclusive of all pupils, and reflects different family structures, faith backgrounds, cultures, genders and sexual orientations.
- Curriculum adaptations are made for pupils with SEND.
- LGBT+ inclusive content is mandatory and is delivered in an age-appropriate, factual and respectful manner.
- Teaching respects and considers religious and cultural backgrounds while meeting statutory requirements.

## Parental Engagement and Right to Withdraw

- Parents/carers will be informed of RSHE curriculum content and may request to view teaching materials

- **Primary:** No right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.  
**Sex Education:** Headteachers/Heads of School must automatically grant parental requests to withdraw from Sex Education which is not statutory until KS3.
- **Secondary:** Parents/carers may request withdrawal from non-statutory sex education beyond biological reproduction. Requests must be made in writing.
- The Headteacher/Head of School (or Senior Leader) will meet with parents/carers (and the pupil, where appropriate) before making a decision. Notes and decisions will be recorded.

## Safeguarding and Pupil Welfare

- RSHE will be delivered safely and in line with safeguarding procedures.
- Staff are trained to manage sensitive discussions appropriately, respond to disclosures and follow safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Pupils are informed of confidentiality limits and staff reinforce confidentiality boundaries.
- Staff teach sensitive topics (e.g. abusive relationships, harmful online behaviours, misogyny, self-harm, illegal acts such as strangulation) in a factual and protective way.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- **Trustees/Trust Board:** Ensure statutory compliance, approve policy, allocate resources.
- **Headteacher/Head of School/Governors:** Implement and monitor RSHE, ensure staff training, evaluate effectiveness.
- **RSHE Coordinators:** Curriculum development, resource selection, parental liaison, monitoring.
- **Teaching Staff:** Deliver RSHE safely and effectively, maintain safe environment, respond appropriately to disclosures.
- **Parents/Carers:** Support learning, engage in consultation, communicate concerns.

Parents/carers may contact the following via 01642 750318 or [admin@whinstone.org.uk](mailto:admin@whinstone.org.uk) with RSHE queries:

- RSHE Lead: Mrs R. Burey
- Headteacher/Head of School: Mrs L Batty
- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs L Batty

Printed copies of policies/materials available upon request.

## Training and Professional Development

All teachers of RSHE receive regular training on covering statutory guidance, safeguarding, inclusive practice, LGBT+ and inclusion, SEND adaptations and online safety. New staff and supply teachers receive relevant induction training.

## External Agencies and Support Contacts

- **Teesside Together Sexual Health and Contraception service** Tel: 01642 924117

- **School nursing service** Tel: 0333 3202 302

- **Mental health support:**

**Stockton CAMHS** Tel: 0300 013 2000 Email: [info@teessidemind.org.uk](mailto:info@teessidemind.org.uk)

**Teesside Mind** Tel: 01642 257020

- **National helplines:**

**Childline** Tel: 0800 1111

**Samaritans** Tel: 116 123

- **RSHE Lead contact:** Mrs R. Burey Tel: 01642 750318 Email: [admin@whinstone.org.uk](mailto:admin@whinstone.org.uk)

- **Safeguarding contacts**

**DSL** – Mrs L Batty

**DDSLs** – Mr Carlton, Mrs Wilson-Dukes, Mr Ford, Mrs Squires

All can be contacted via 01642 750318 or [admin@whinstone.org.uk](mailto:admin@whinstone.org.uk)

## Monitoring, Evaluation, and Review

- Monitoring through lesson observations, learning walks, pupil surveys, assessment of knowledge and attitudes.
- Feedback from pupils, parents, and staff informs curriculum improvement.
- Annual policy review or sooner if legislative updates occur.
- Annual reporting to Trust on RSHE provision and compliance.

## Complaints

- Complaints follow the Trust's complaints procedure.
- Alleged breaches of policy are investigated by school leadership and reported to the Trust central team.

## Appendix A: Parental Withdrawal Procedure

1. Parent/carer submits written request to the Headteacher/Head of School.
2. A meeting is arranged with the parent/carer (and pupil where appropriate).
3. The Headteacher/Head of School/Senior Leader explains lesson content and discusses concerns.
4. Decision confirmed in writing and recorded.
5. Alternative supervised provision arranged.
6. Re-entry to lessons may be requested at any time.

## Appendix B: RSHE Resource Vetting Checklist

Resources must:

- Align with DfE statutory guidance.
- Be age-appropriate.
- Be inclusive and respectful of protected characteristics.
- Be factually accurate.
- Be free from stereotypes.
- Be safeguarding appropriate.
- Be shareable with parents when requested.