



Relationships & Sexuality Education Policy

I. Introduction

This policy has been developed with the new curriculum at the forefront, ensuring that it is programmed to meet the needs of our schools. As Relationship and Sexuality Education is statutory for all schools in Wales since September 2022, it is important that the policy sets clear outcomes for our schools.

We strongly feel that our pupils receive Relationship and Sexuality Education. We want to ensure that all pupils in our schools receive effective Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) of a high quality as part of their personal and social development from Nursery to Year 6. We want to ensure that our RSE curriculum is effective in supporting our pupils to develop the skills and knowledge appropriate to their age, on a regular basis.

Following changes to the requirements of Relationship and Sexuality Education in Wales, parents cannot withdraw their child from the sessions as they will now be taught across the six Areas of Learning. Despite this, we ensure as schools that the education provided to each pupil is developmentally appropriate and meaningful for their age.

The Relationship and Sexuality Education code, published as part of the Curriculum for Wales, outlines that schools must teach within the context of broad and interlinked learning strands, namely:

- Relationships and Identity
- Sexual Health and Wellbeing
- Empowerment, Safety and Respect

Objectives

RSE supports learners to develop confidently from childhood, through adolescence, to adulthood. RSE is presented mainly in teaching areas of Health and Wellbeing, Science and Technology and Humanities learning areas.

RSE outcomes support pupils to:

- Foster positive attitudes and values that influence their behaviour
- Foster the skills needed to make informed responsible decisions about health and well-being, including sexual well-being
- Gain self-respect and respect for others
- Appreciate diversity in sexual orientation and celebrate difference
- Build successful and secure relationships
- Appreciate the importance of stable and loving personal relationships.
- Understand physical and emotional aspects

The aims of Relationship and Sexuality Education:

- Understand the importance of a stable, safe and loving environment for personal and family life
- Learning about family diversity within society
- Understand that there is a variety of relationships and backgrounds within society
- Show sensitivity towards everyone and ensure that no one is stigmatised because of domestic circumstances
- Show sensitivity when celebrating fathers/mothers' days, acknowledging the fact that family circumstances vary
- Consider the needs of our learners when planning
- To value themselves
- To acknowledge and express their feelings
- To make strong friends and relationships
- Understand reasons for physical and emotional change that occurs during puberty including conception, pregnancy and birth
- Show empathy to recognise and understand the emotions of others
- The importance of personal safety – what they should do and who to go to for help if they do not feel safe

2. It is intended to:

- Use the pupil's voice when planning Relationship and Sexuality Education
- Discuss content with parents and carers when holding open evenings
- Offer support to parents and carers
- Communicate as a Cluster and with YGG Llangynwyd to ensure consistency and progression
- Encourage children to understand that the school staff respect and protect their privacy

3. Pedagogy:

- Ensure a supportive and safe environment
- Support open and non-judgmental discussions
- Encourage open questioning
- Use correct and appropriate vocabulary

4. We will ensure that our education provides:

- A wide range of input across the learning areas
- Activities that are relevant to the age of the pupils
- Partnerships between all the schools' stakeholders
- Respect for everyone
- Consideration on how best to meet the needs of our learners including those with additional learning needs

5. Possible activities/resources:

- Role play
- Use of pictures and videos
- Books
- Visits from external agencies e.g. nurse, police, theatre, charities
- Discussions
- Group work
- Physical education
- Scenario cards

We will always aim to ensure that resources use for RSE are relevant, reputable, developmentally appropriate, inclusive and sensitive to all learners. Our chosen resources will be kept under regular review.

6. The Four Purposes

As we plan to implement the new curriculum, we use four learning purposes as an integral part of our planning and teaching. The skills and knowledge our pupils will gain and learn through the RSE themes will develop all aspects of the four learning purposes. Our aim, using RSE, will ensure that we develop capable, independent and confident learning that is ethically informed and healthy.

We would like to confirm to pupils and parents/carers that the religion or personal attitudes of the school staff will not influence the pedagogy of Relationship and Sexuality Education. It is hoped that the school staff and parents/carers can work together to ensure that positive messages are conveyed to our learners regarding Relationship and Sexuality Education while being open when answering the children's questions.

We encourage parents and carers to have an open dialogue with the school and the class teacher regarding topics that will be discussed during Relationship and Sexuality Education lessons so that we can answer any questions and queries you may have.