




Thomas Lord Audley School

RSE Policy

Document Details	
Category:	School Policy
Status:	Approved
Approved By:	Local Governance Committee
Approval date:	17 March 2025
Issue Date:	Spring 2025
Next Review Date:	Spring 2026
Signed (Chair of Governors):	

Ownership & Control

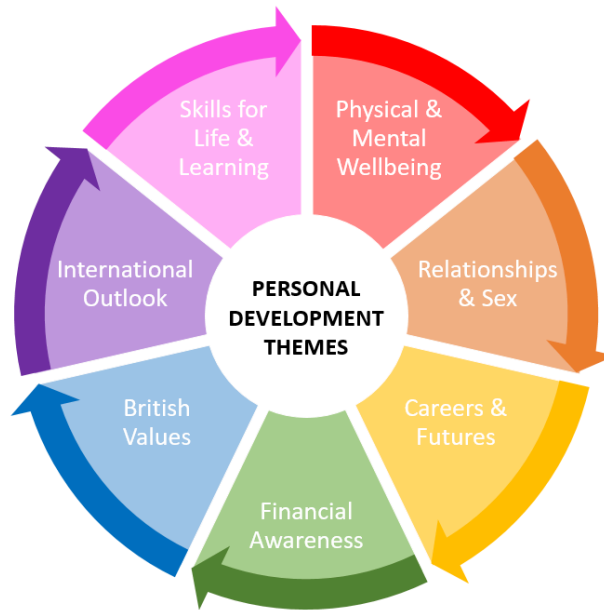
Version	Author	Dated	Status	Details
v2 (2024)	KN	Feb 2024	Reviewed & approved	Minor amendments in sections: 2, 6 & 7.3
v3 (2025)	KNE	Spring 2025	Reviewed	Minor update RSE guidance 2021 referenced

Contents

1. Aims	4
2. Statutory requirements	4
3. Policy development	5
4. Definition	5
5. Curriculum	5
6. Delivery of RSE	5
7. Roles and responsibilities	6
8. Parents' right to withdraw	6
9. Training	7
10. Monitoring arrangements	7
Appendix 1: Curriculum map	8
Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know	9
Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE	11

1. Aims

Relationships and sex education at Thomas Lord Audley School is one element of our student personal development programme, the purpose of which is to equip students with the knowledge they need to enable them to live safe, fulfilled and healthy lives.



The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school 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 culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

Our working principles of **Ready – Respectful – Responsible** underpin RSE and the ways in which it is delivered at Thomas Lord Audley School.

2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

In teaching RSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At Thomas Lord Audley School we teach RSE as set out in this policy and in line with the Sex and Relationship Education guidance (2021).

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed following national best practice guidelines and will continue to be developed following feedback from staff, pupils and parents. The policy has been shared with and ratified by governors.

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

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

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the Personal Development (PD) education curriculum which is delivered in tutorial time and within the curriculum time (Year 9 - 11). In Years 7 - 8 RSE is taught only within curriculum time .

Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE), politics, belief and society (PBS) lessons and citizenship.

Some elements of learning may be delivered by invited trained health professionals rather than pupils' teachers/tutors.

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

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: looked after children or young carers).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modeling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from non-statutory components of RSE

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

Staff with responsibility for the teaching of RSE include

- teachers of science (biological understanding of reproduction)
- teachers of computing (online safety)
- teachers of life skills, citizenship and religious education in Key Stage 4
- form tutors
- PSHE delivery team
- Personal Development Lead Teacher (School Improvement leader)
- Pastoral Deputy Headteacher

7.4 Pupils

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

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE 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 and will be taken on a case by case situation. If the request is upheld, the student will only be removed for the specified content requested and for the set period of delivery.

Support and changes will be in place to support any student and/or parent as an alternative and prior to a student being removed from the content.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

The pupil's form tutor and other relevant staff will be informed so that arrangements may be made when needed during the year. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education, to be undertaken in a supervised setting separate from the classroom where sex education is being taught.

9. Training

Staff deployed to teach RSE are given training, resources and support to ensure that they have the knowledge, skills and confidence required to deliver this element of the curriculum effectively.

The Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development) will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHE/RSE lead and Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning) as part of our internal quality of teaching and learning review cycle.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the governor with responsibility for safeguarding annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by The Local Governing Committee.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map
Relationships and sex education curriculum map

YEAR GROUP	TOPIC/THEME	RESOURCES
Year 7	Marriage and Families – different types of family Puberty – physical and emotional changes Sex, Consent and the Law eSafety and Grooming Relationships and Friendships	Resources are produced and contextualized for the students based on quality assured resources from the PSHE Association
Year 8	Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships Choices around Sex eSafety and ‘Sexting’ LGBTQ+ Gender Identity	
Year 9	Characteristics of Successful Relationships Consent in Relationships Contraception Choices STIs FGM Child on Child abuse	Resources are produced and contextualized for the students based on quality assured resources from the PSHE Association
Year 10	Parenting Skills Marriage and relationships Exploitation and Abuse in Relationships Impact of Pornography Challenging Sexual Stereotypes Sex and Relationships LGBTQ+	
Year 11	Sexual Health Contraception and STIs Screening and Self-examination Lifestyle and Fertility Pregnancy and Miscarriage Sexual Harrassment & Sexual Violence	

Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That there are different types of committed, stable relationships ● How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children ● What marriage is, including their legal status e.g. that marriage carries legal rights and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony ● Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into ● The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships ● The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting ● How to: determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy: judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe (and to recognise this in others' relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (including online) trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. This includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship ● Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships ● How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g. how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice) ● That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs ● About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help ● That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control ● What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable ● The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online ● About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them ● What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online ● The impact of viewing harmful content ● That specifically sexually explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners ● That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail ● How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships ● How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships, which include mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex and friendship ● 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 ● The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women ● That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others ● That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex ● The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available ● The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage ● That there are choices in relation to pregnancy (with medically and legally accurate, 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/AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing ● About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment ● How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour ● How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment

from :

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education__Relationships_and_Sex_Education__RSE__and_Health_Education.pdf

Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

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

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

Also available as a Google form [here](#).