



**CORLEY ACADEMY**  
Inclusion Aspiration Perseverance Independence

# **RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY (RSE)**

## **July 2025**

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Ratified by the Local Governing Body – submitted for approval	
Signed by the (*Board of Trustees):	<b>Date</b>
To be reviewed (*annually/every 2 years):	<b>Date July 2026</b>

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## 1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at Corley Academy are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place;
- Prepare students 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 students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

This policy covers Corley Academy's whole school approach to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). We believe that RSE is vital for the personal, social and emotional development of our students. It equips children and young people with the information, skills and values they need to have safe, respectful and enjoyable relationships and empowers them to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.

Corley Academy believes that all children and young people have a right to holistic, inclusive and needs-led RSE. We believe that through providing high quality RSE, we are upholding the ethos and values of our school and its commitment to equality and celebration of difference.

This policy was produced in consultation with our staff, board of governors, students and parents. We will ensure the policy is effectively communicated to staff and parents, including through publishing the policy on our school website.

The information below complies with our statutory obligations to deliver RSE under sections 34 & 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. It has due regard for the Department for Education's statutory Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance, including the updated guidance published in July 2025, and other relevant guidance.

We will review the policy on a regular basis to ensure that it is in line with current Government guidance and legislation and to ensure that our RSE programme continues to meet the needs of our students. The policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies: anti-bullying policy, behaviour policy, child protection and safeguarding policy.

## 2. Statutory Requirements

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to the [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

We believe that RSE is a key vehicle for promoting equality, inclusion and social justice. Our RSE is designed to promote gender equality through challenging gender stereotypes and sexism and sexual harassment in schools. We take these issues seriously and ensure that we embed content on gender equality throughout the curriculum. We are also committed to an RSE that makes everyone feel valued and included and is relevant to them. This means we are committed to an LGBT+ inclusive and SEND inclusive curriculum and are mindful of the SEND Code of Practice 2014 when planning for this subject. We will also ensure that we take into account the religious and cultural background of all pupils when teaching RSE. An inclusive RSE at Corley Academy will seek to challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice between pupils and promote understanding and respect as outlined under the Equality Act 2010.

### **3. Policy Development**

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

- Review – a member of staff pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
- Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
- Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
- Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
- Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with trustees and ratified

### **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.

We define relationships education as learning about the physical, social, legal and emotional aspects of human relationships including friendships, intimate, sexual and committed relationships and family life.

We define sex education as learning about the physical, social, legal and emotional aspects of human sexuality and behaviour, including human reproduction. This includes conception and contraception, safer sex, sexually transmitted infections and sexual health.

We take the approach that Relationships and Sex Education are best approached in an integrated way and using a gender equity and human rights framework. We will take care to highlight lessons that contain what we define as sex education so that we can respect the wishes of parents who have withdrawn their children from this content. Simultaneously, we will seek to nurture children's curiosity about the world around them, supporting their development and their respect for themselves and each other.

To cover the curriculum content outlined in the RSHE Guidance, we will equip our students to build positive and respectful relationships online and offline. We seek to ensure that it gives students the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will help them to:

- realise their health (including sexual health), wellbeing and dignity
- build self-esteem and self-worth
- explore and value their personal and sexual identity and the personal/sexual identities of others
- understand family structures, committed relationships and the legal status of different types of long-term relationships
- understand and make sense of the real-life issues they are experiencing in the world around them
- manage and explore difficult feelings and emotions
- consider how their choices affect their own wellbeing and that of others
- develop as informed and responsible citizens
- understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives.

We believe that high quality, comprehensive RSE does not encourage early sexual experimentation but in fact builds young people's confidence and self-esteem and helps them understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity. Evidence shows that effective RSE plays a role in behaviour change, including reducing unprotected or unwanted sex and reducing harmful behaviour, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

## **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, students and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of students. If students 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.

The curriculum programme is developed by PSHE Subject Lead teacher in conjunction with the views of teachers, students and parents. At Corley Academy we will meet the learning objectives and content outlined in the Relationships Education, Relationships & Sex Education and Health Education Guidance 2020. All content will be delivered in a timely way and will be age and developmentally appropriate to meet the needs of our students, including those pupils with SEND.

## **6. Delivery of RSE**

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health, citizenship and economic (PSHCE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, Online Safety within the ICT curriculum and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

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).

The PSHE Subject Lead teacher will work closely with colleagues in related curriculum areas (science, computing, PE and citizenship) to ensure a holistic and joined up approach to what is taught in RSE.

We also supplement learning through using a whole school approach and utilising time outside of the classroom, such as topics explored in school assemblies, through art and drama, school celebrations or events and Mentor Time.

RSE will address aspects of relationships and sex in an integrated way within a single topic. We will take care to highlight lessons that contain what we define as sex education so that we can respect the wishes of parents who have withdrawn their children from this content. We also use external agencies where appropriate to deliver aspects of Relationships and Sex Education (see section below). The programme will be delivered in a non-judgemental, factual way, using the correct

medical terms where appropriate (for example when teaching about external body parts).

RSE supports safeguarding by helping students recognise unsafe situations, understand consent and boundaries, and know how to seek help, including in online contexts.

School staff will not express or be expected to express their personal views or beliefs when teaching RSE.

## **7. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **7.1. The Trustees**

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

We regularly monitor our RSE scheme of work to ensure that the quality of teaching is consistent, that the curriculum is meeting the new national requirements under the Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education guidance, and that learning outcomes are reflective of need. This policy will be reviewed by the school's leadership team in conjunction with PSHE Subject Lead teacher and Governors on a regular basis. If changes are needed, members of staff, parents/carers and students will be consulted and any subsequent changes made clearly communicated. The School's Leadership Team monitors the implementation of the programme through:

- Lesson observations
- Planning scrutiny
- Learning walks
- Looking at samples of ' work

### **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
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual students
- Responding appropriately to students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the 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.

#### 7.4. Students

Students 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.

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

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

### 9. Training

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

The headteacher 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 PSHE Subject Lead through:

SOL/planning scrutinies, Lesson Observations, learning walks, etc.

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

This policy will be reviewed by PSHE Subject Lead annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

### 11. Storing and managing information

See our Data Protection Policy.

### 12. Dealing with complaints

If a parent has a complaint about Corley Academy they should seek support from their child's Senior Link, the member of the Senior Leadership Team responsible for

the Mentor Group. If parents continue to be dissatisfied they can contact a Deputy Headteacher or Headteacher. Parents are given contact details for the relevant staff members at the start of the year. This is also available on the website.

If the issues remains unsolved, parents should follow the Local Authority complaints procedure.

The Trustees reserves the right to amend this policy if and when required.

### 13. Compliance

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2014) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013

SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (2014)

Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education statutory guidance (DfE, July 2025)

**Coventry SEND Local Offer can be found at <http://www.coventry.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer>**

### 14. Changes

Description	Date	Page	Section
Added link to PHSE Road maps	Sept 2024		14 and 15
Reviewed to reflect updated DfE statutory RSE guidance	July 2025	Various	Statutory Requirements / Delivery / Monitoring
Additional of paragraph RSE supports safeguarding by helping students recognise unsafe situations, understand consent and boundaries, and know how to seek help, including in online contexts.	July 2025		Section 6

## 15. Appendix 1: Curriculum map

This curriculum map is reviewed annually to ensure alignment with statutory Relationships and Sex Education guidance.

Please click the link below to access the most current curriculum information.

[Relationships and sex education curriculum map](#)

Year group	YEAR	Topic/theme details
7	Annually	Puberty Self-Concept Healthy Lifestyles
8/9	2020-2021	Healthy Lifestyles Sexual Health Positive Relationships Respectful Relationships Contraception and Parenthood Bullying and Discrimination Financial Choices Government, Parliament, Voting and Democracy - Citizenship Media Influence (in ICT) (Work and Careers)
8/9	2021-2022	Mental Health and Wellbeing Drugs and Alcohol Personal Safety Relationship Values Consent Social Influences Learning Skills Choices and Pathways

Year group	YEAR	Topic/theme details
KS4	Annually	Positive relationships Relationship Values Respectful Relationships Social Influences  Taught through Science: Sexual Health and fertility Health Related decisions Contraception and Parenthood Consent

## 16. Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school students' should know

This section reflects the statutory end-of-secondary expectations set out in the Department for Education's Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance. It includes reference to emerging risks and issues identified in the updated guidance (July 2025), including online harms, harmful attitudes and behaviours, and safeguarding considerations, delivered in an age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate way for our students.

Please click the link below to access the most current curriculum information.

[Relationships and sex education curriculum map](#)

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<p>That there are different types of committed, stable relationships</p> <p>How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children</p> <p>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</p> <p>Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into</p> <p>The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships</p> <p>The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting</p> <p>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</p>

Respectful relationships, including friendships

The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including: 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

That harmful and misogynistic attitudes and behaviours (including those seen in online subcultures) negatively affect relationships and wellbeing.

<p>Online and media</p>	<p>Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online</p> <p>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</p> <p>Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them</p> <p>What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online</p> <p>The impact of viewing harmful content</p> <p>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</p> <p>That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail</p> <p>How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online.</p> <p>How online content such as AI-generated images, deep fakes, pornography and extreme subcultures can distort ideas about sex, consent and relationships.</p>
<p>Being safe</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>How to recognise harmful and exploitative online and offline behaviours (including grooming and misogyny) and how to get support.</p>

<p>Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women</p> <p>That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others</p> <p>That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex</p> <p>The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available</p> <p>The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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</p> <p>About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment</p> <p>How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour</p> <p>How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment</p>
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