



The Beacon Centre  
Leading The Way To A Brighter Future

# **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy (Secondary) 2021/2022**

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## **1. Introduction**

The Beacon Centre is aware that children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

## **2. Aims**

The aim of RSE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable

them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague, a successful marriage, civil partnership or other type of committed relationship.

It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in a relationship is. This will help students understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed.

The Beacon Centre's RSE policy for secondary will provide clear progression from what is taught in primary in Relationships Education. We will build on the foundation of RE and, as students grow up, at the appropriate time extend teaching to include intimate relationships. Alongside being taught intimate relationships, students will also be taught about family relationships, friendships and other kinds of relationships that are an equally important part of becoming a successful and happy adult.

Teaching of RSE in The Beacon Centre will enable students:

- To distinguish between content and experiences that exemplify healthy relationships and those that are distorted or harmful;
- To understand the benefits of healthy relationships to their mental wellbeing and self-respect and to understand that unhealthy relationships can have a lasting, negative impact on mental wellbeing;
- To believe they can achieve goals and that in order to achieve those goals they must stick at the tasks despite the challenges they may face;

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- To be taught the facts and the law about sex, sexuality, sexual health and gender identity in an age-appropriate and inclusive way;
- To recognise when relationships (including family relationships) are unhealthy or abusive (including the unacceptability of neglect, emotional, sexual and physical abuse and violence including honour-based violence and forced marriage) and strategies to manage this or access support for themselves or others at risk;
- To recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how and when to report issues to keep them safe online;
- To, within the law, be well equipped to make decisions for themselves about how to live their own lives in the future, whilst respecting the right of others to make their

own decisions and hold their own beliefs.

### **3. Statutory Guidance**

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education.

This policy was developed in response to:

- [Statutory guidance on RSE and health education](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education: for schools and colleges](#)
- [Behaviour and discipline in schools: guidance for head teachers and staff](#) • [Equality Act 2010: advice for schools](#)
- [Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#) • [Alternative provision](#)
- [Mental health and behaviour in schools](#)
- [Preventing and tackling bullying](#)
- [Cyber bullying: advice for head teachers and school staff](#)
- [Advice for parents and carers on cyber bullying](#)
- [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#) • [Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools](#)
- [National Citizen Service: guidance for schools and colleges](#)

### **4. Links with other policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following School

policies: • Safeguarding Policy

• Anti-Bullying Policy

• E-Safety Policy

• Equality Information

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## **5. Delivery of the programme**

The Beacon Centre acknowledges that high-quality, evidence-based and age appropriate teaching can help pupils prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life as well as promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils both at school and in society. RSE will be set in the context of a wider whole-school approach to supporting pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school. The curriculum on relationships and sex will complement and be supported by, The Beacon Centre wider policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, anti-bullying and safeguarding. RSE will sit within the context of The Beacon Centers broader ethos and approach to developing pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally; and its pastoral care system.

The curriculum on health education will similarly complement, and be supported by, The Beacon Centre's education on healthy lifestyles through physical education, food technology, science and its sport, extra-curricular activity and school food.

The Beacon Centre will deliver the content set out in Appendix 2 in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum. Effective teaching will ensure that core knowledge is broken down into units of manageable size and communicated clearly to pupils, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned programme of lessons. Teaching will include sufficient well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to practise applying and embedding new knowledge so that it can be used skillfully and confidently in real life situations.

The lead teacher will work closely with colleagues in related curriculum areas to ensure Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education programmes complement each other and do not duplicate, content covered in national curriculum subjects such as citizenship, science, computing and PE.

## **6. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**

Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education will be accessible for all pupils. High quality teaching is differentiated and personalised, this is the starting point to ensure accessibility for all pupils. The Beacon Centre will also be mindful of the preparing for adulthood outcomes as set out in the SEND code of practice, when preparing these subjects for pupils with SEND.

The Beacon Centre is aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their SEND. Relationships Education can also be a

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priority for some pupils, for example some with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs or learning disabilities.

For some pupils there may be a need to tailor content and teaching to meeting the specific needs of children at different development stages.

## **7. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **7.1**

The Beacon Centre will:

- Monitor the implementation of the policy across all subjects
- Monitor pupil progress to ensure that pupils achieve expected outcomes; • Ensure that Teachers are resource in such a way that The Beacon Centre fulfils its legal obligations.

### **7.2**

The Local Council will ensure:

- All pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes; • The subjects are well led, effectively managed and well planned;
- That the quality of provision is subject to regular and effective self-evaluation; • That the subjects are resourced in a way that ensures The Beacon Centre can fulfil its legal obligation.

### **7.3**

The Head teacher will ensure that:

- All staff are informed of the policy and the responsibilities included within the policy. • All teachers explore how new pedagogies and technology can be fully utilised to support subjects;
- The subjects are staffed and timetabled in a way to ensure The Beacon Centre fulfils their legal obligations;
- The teaching of RSE is monitored to ensure that it is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND;
- The Beacon Centre works with parents/carers when planning and delivering RSE to pupils.
- Clear information is provided to parents/carers on the subject content and the right to request that their child is withdrawn.

### **7.4**

All staff will ensure that:

- Ground rules are negotiated with the group before embarking on lessons of a sensitive nature so that both the staff and pupils can work together in a supportive

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atmosphere in which all members can speak with confidence and without fear of embarrassment, anxiety or breach of confidentiality;

- All students are offered the opportunity to explore ideas, situations and feelings in an atmosphere of confidence and support;
- At all times teaching will take place in the context of an explicit moral framework;
- All points of view they may express during the course of teaching RSE are unbiased.
- The teaching of RSE is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND; • The emphasis of teaching RSE will always be the importance and understanding of personal relationships and the right of the individual to make informed choices;
- Issues of stereotyping, sexual equality, harassment, rights and legislation underpin the teaching of RSE;
- Where appropriate they direct pupils to seek advice and support from an appropriate agency or individual. It is inappropriate for staff to give students personal advice on matters such as contraception;
- Where a student has embarked on a course of action likely to place them at risk, the member of staff will ensure that the student is aware of the implications of their behaviour. The member of staff should refer any potential concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### **7.5 Parents/Carers**

The Beacon Centre acknowledge the key role that parents/carers play in the development of their children's understanding about relationships. Parents are the first educators of their children. They have the most significant influence in enabling their children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships.

All Parents/Carers will be:

- Given every opportunity to understand the purpose and content of Relationships Education and RSE;
- Encouraged to participate in the development of Relationships Education and RSE;
- Able to discuss any concerns directly with the head teacher.

### **8. Right to be excused from sex education**

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. The Beacon Centre, before granting any such request, will require the Head Teacher/Head of School to discuss the request with the parent and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum.

Following the discussions, except in exceptional circumstances, The Beacon Centre will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather



than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.

The Head Teacher/Head of School will ensure that where a pupil is excused from sex education, the pupil will receive appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. There is no right to withdraw from the national curriculum.

## **9. Working with external agencies**

The Beacon Centre is aware that working with external partners will enhance the delivery of RSE and will support to bring in specialist knowledge and implement different ways of engaging with young people.

Schools will work with external agencies to ensure that the content delivered is age appropriate and accessible for all pupils. Any materials that are used as part of the delivery must be approved by The Beacon Centre in advance of the session.

The Beacon Centre will ensure that the visitor is aware of aspects of confidentiality and understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with The Beacon Centre's Safeguarding Policy.

## **10. Safeguarding, reports of abuse and confidentiality**

The Beacon Centre recognises that at the heart of RSE, the focus is on keeping children safe, and acknowledges the significant role schools have in preventative education.

In The Beacon Centre, we will allow children an open forum to discuss potentially sensitive issues. Such discussions can lead to increased safeguarding reports. Children will be made aware of the processes to enable them to raise their concerns or make a report and how any report will be handled. This will also include processes when they have a concern about a peer or friend.

In line with the document Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), all staff are aware of what to do if a child tells them that they are being abused or neglected. Staff are also aware of need to manage the requirement to maintain an

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appropriate level of confidentiality. This means only involving those that need to be involved, such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead and children's social care. A member of staff will never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this is not in the best interests of the child.

The involvement of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) will ensure that The Beacon Centre, high quality local resources are engaged, links to the police and other agencies are utilised and the knowledge of the any particular local issues it may be appropriate to address in lessons.