



# Clifton High School

co-educational nursery pre-school to sixth form

<b>Policy applies from EYFS to Sixth Form</b>	<b>Relationship and Sex Education</b>
Date policy updated	24.09.2020
Date policy to be reviewed	24.07.2021
Author	Miss R Coleman
A shaded area denotes a regulation to which all schools must comply	

***Clifton High School is committed to child protection and safeguarding children and young people and expects all staff, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.***

## **Related Policies**

Personal, Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

Visiting Speakers

Clifton High School defines Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) as, 'the teaching of age appropriate Relationship and Sex education', as part of the School Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) syllabus. The curriculum complies with the new government regulations for the teaching of RSE and has been heavily influenced by the recommendations made by the *PSHE Association*.

Clifton High School's Relationships and RSE will be age-appropriate and aims to build knowledge and life skills over time, in a way that prepares pupils for issues they will soon face. The policy covers Clifton High School's ethos to "foster confidence...and resilience" so all pupils can thrive in an ever changing and challenging world. The school believes that relationships and sex education is important as it will equip our pupils with the skills they require in the future, to be happy and healthy individuals. Our overarching aim is for pupils to learn vital life skills in a safe school environment. The school believes that home and school should work together to provide vital skills and knowledge for all our pupils. Therefore, where possible, Clifton High School shall be offering workshops and advice to parents, so they can support their children with their RSE learning.

The School has planned the RSE curriculum to ensure inclusivity. The needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and those where English is not their first language, have been accommodated in the planning of this curriculum. For example, all lessons have been adapted and differentiated, to ensure greater accessibility for all pupils. The lessons also encompass a variety of learning styles, such as discussion, debate and interactive learning, to ensure it is accessible and inclusive.

In line with the new government guidelines, Clifton High School's RSE promotes both gender and LGBT+ equality. Both these topics will be covered in the curriculum and shall be taught sensitively and inclusively. Through this, pupils will learn vital skills that will equip them to challenge discrimination as well as recognise a range of various relationships.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The RSE programme has been designed by the Head of PSHE. The curriculum has been overseen and agreed to by the Head of School. The Deputy Head, Pastoral has been consulted in the planning and will also be teaching the curriculum. In addition, there are 2 nominated governors with responsibility for the PSHE curriculum.

All teaching staff have access to appropriate learning resources and have received the necessary training to support their teaching of RSE at Clifton High School.

### **Legislation (statutory regulations and guidance)**

All Schools are required to teach relationships education as part of the revised Department of Education statutory guidance. From September 2020, the Department of Education stipulates that all schools must deliver relationships education (in primary schools) and relationships and sex education (in secondary schools). These new guidelines inform the teaching and learning of RSE at Clifton High School. The documents that inform the school's RSE policy includes

- Education Act (1996)
- Learning and Skills Act (2000)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Supplementary Guidance SRE for the 21st century (2014) o Keeping children safe in education – Statutory
- Safeguarding guidance (2016)
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)

Parents' right to withdraw pupils from RSE remains in primary and secondary education. Parents right to withdraw pupils exists for aspects of sex education that are not part of the compulsory Science curriculum. For example, it is not possible to withdraw pupils from topics such as puberty or reproduction. Following a discussion with the Deputy Head, Pastoral, parents can choose to withdraw their children from the 'sex' element of RSE. Under government regulation, parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from the 'relationship', 'health' or other aspects of PSHE. A pupil may opt back in to RSE lessons, 3 terms before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, without parental consent. If a parent requests that their child be removed from relationships and sex education, the school will provide alternative work, in another classroom, on a different aspect of the PSHE curriculum.

### **Curriculum Design**

The Clifton High School RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education and will cover a broad range of topics and issues (see list below). The curriculum has been planned carefully, to cover all mandatory RSE topics, as well as being comprehensive and inclusive of all learning needs. The school has adopted an inclusive approach, so all learning resources are accessible, regardless of pupils' gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, diversity, ethnicity, culture, age, religion or belief. Clifton High School is committed to ensuring that the teaching of each topic is age appropriate, by following government guidelines in this area. The RSE programme will be taught through a range of teaching methods and interactive activities, including debate, class discussion and media clips. Lessons will be differentiated so teachers can cater for every learning need in the classroom. An example of an RSE lesson is attached.

The curriculum is comprehensive but aims to focus on the following topics and issues:

- How to recognise different types of relationships, including friendships, family relationships, dealing with strangers and, at secondary school, intimate relationships
- How to recognise, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for others, commitment, tolerance, boundaries and consent, and how to manage conflict, and also how to recognise unhealthy relationships
- How relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health;
- How to recognise healthy relationships and safety online
- Factual knowledge, at secondary school, around sex, sexual health and sexuality, set firmly within the context of relationships

Like the rest of the PSHE course, pupils' learning is not formally assessed. However, teachers will be able to measure progress by pupils' work, classroom contributions and completed reflection logs, following a visit from a guest speaker. Pupil voice will be used to reflect and feedback on the RSE curriculum.

### **Safe Learning Environment**

Clifton High School is committed to delivering high quality and effectively planned RSE lessons. Included in this is a commitment to a safe learning classroom environment for all pupils. Teachers will establish a safe learning environment, with clearly outlined rules and expectations. Case studies will be used to purposefully depersonalise topics, so pupils can consider challenging issues and topics in a safe, objective and distanced way. In addition to this, there will be an opportunity for pupils to ask questions anonymously, so teachers can tailor the lesson, around both the RSE curriculum and to pupils' needs. All teachers have been trained to handle potentially sensitive and controversial issues that may arise during lessons. All teachers of RSE have been issued with a staff protocol, to help tackle situations that may arise in lessons. A copy of this protocol is available upon request by contacting the Head of PSHE.

### **Safeguarding**

Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to disclosures of child protection issues. All teachers of RSE have been trained to use the school's approved safeguarding pathways, and inform the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), in these cases. In the DSL's absence, teachers will contact either one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead Supports or Deputy Head, Pastoral. All guest speakers will be fully checked, in accordance to the School's Visiting Speakers Policy and will be accompanied by a teacher at the time, to ensure the deliverance of appropriate content and interaction with the pupils.

### **The role of Parents**

Parents will be informed about the school's RSE policy, alongside any updates, via email. In addition to this, the school will publish the policy on the parents' area of the website and is available, free of charge on request from the School Office. Clifton High School is committed to working with parents by offering them PSHE and RSE workshops. For parents to continue their child's learning at home, a list of useful resources will be made available, on the school's website to support parents with this. Parents are welcome to contact the Head of PSHE, to discuss the curriculum further and will be emailed when Relationships and Sex education will be taught. At this time, a list of learning topics will be issued to parents, so they are able to support children with their learning. Clifton High School will consult parents of registered pupils at the school, before making changes or revising the policy of curriculum at the school. The school is interested to hear from all parents and their views on the RSE programme. Although all views will be considered and listened to, parents do not have a right to veto any aspect of the RSE curriculum.

In addition to this, Pupil voice will be used to review and tailor our RSE programme to match the different needs of pupils. Pupils will be asked to give feedback on the RSE curriculum throughout regular intervals of the year and their views and ideas will be considered, when planning the future RSE curriculum.

### **Right to withdrawal**

Parents' right to withdraw pupils from RSE remains in primary and secondary education. Parents right to withdraw pupils exists for aspects of sex education that are not part of the compulsory Science curriculum. For example, it is not possible to withdraw pupils from topics such as puberty or reproduction. Following a discussion with the Deputy Head, Pastoral, parents can choose to withdraw their children from the 'sex' element of RSE. Under government regulation, parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from the 'relationship', 'health' or other aspects of PSHE. A pupil may opt back in to RSE lessons, 3 terms before their 16th birthday, without parental consent. If a parent/carer requests that their child be removed from relationships and sex education, the school will provide alternative work, in another classroom, on a different aspect of the PSHE curriculum.