



Compass Learning Centre Relationships, Sex & Health Education Policy 2026-2027

Statutory Policy: YES		Governor Action: NO		
Governors' Committee Responsible:		Teaching & Learning Committee		
Link Governor:		Chair of Committee		
Link SLT:		Deputy Head		
Person Responsible:		Deputy Head		
Date Reviewed:		May 2026		
Next Review Date:		May 2027		
Key Link Policies / Documents: <i>This list is not exhaustive and further policies / documents may also need to be consulted in addition to these dependent on circumstances</i>		Child Protection E safety Code of conduct Learning & Teaching KCSIE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education DFE 2025		
Policy Suite:				
HR	Curriculum	Student Behaviour & Welfare	Finance	Premises & Health & Safety
	✓			

Inspire, Transform, Excel and Succeed

Signed: *Alison Glazier* Headteacher Date: 24/05/26

Signed: *CM Keir* Link Governor Date: 25/06/26

Equality Impact Assessment – initial screening record

- What area of work is being considered? - Upon whom will this impact?	Relationships and sex education Staff Students safeguarding																																				
How would the work impact upon groups, are they included and considered? <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>The Equality Strands</th> <th>Negative Impact</th> <th>Positive Impact</th> <th>No impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Minority ethnic groups</td><td></td><td>√</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Gender</td><td></td><td>√</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Disability</td><td></td><td>√</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Religion, Faith or Belief</td><td></td><td>√</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Sexual Orientation</td><td></td><td>√</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Transgender</td><td></td><td>√</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Age</td><td></td><td>√</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Rurality</td><td></td><td>√</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		The Equality Strands	Negative Impact	Positive Impact	No impact	Minority ethnic groups		√		Gender		√		Disability		√		Religion, Faith or Belief		√		Sexual Orientation		√		Transgender		√		Age		√		Rurality		√	
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Does the initial screening highlight potential issues that may be illegal? No Further comments:-																																					
Do you consider that a full Equality Impact Assessment is required? No Initial screening carried out by Deputy Head Signed: Mark Fisher Dated: 24/05/26																																					
Comment by Head teacher: Date 24/05/26																																					

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1. Aims

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

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained secondary alternative provision school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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

This policy has been updated taking into account the statutory RSHE guidance issued by the Department for Education in 2019 and 2025.

At Compass we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

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:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations

3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors 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.

5. Curriculum

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. The curriculum is regularly reviewed and updated taking pupils needs and feelings into account through regular pupil voice surveys.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and Lifeskills curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum.

Pupils may also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional or teacher where appropriate.

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

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 Appendix 1.

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, LGBTQI+ 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.

The governing board will hold the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

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 components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way and taking all needs into account
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

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 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 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. Compass does not offer any post 16 education at the current time.

The PSHE lead will inform parents and carers about RSE and LifeSkills topics which will be covered in each term through plans published on the website, through an information letter at the beginning of the school year and in each end of term newsletter which will highlight what is coming up next term. This will enable parents and carers to discuss with their children what they will be learning and ask questions about materials. The PSHE lead is happy to discuss lesson resources with all parents and carers who would like to see them.

Relationships education in secondary school centres on friendships, families, respect, consent, boundaries, and recognising healthy versus unhealthy behaviours. Its purpose is to equip pupils with the knowledge and skills to form positive relationships of all kinds and to understand what respectful behaviour looks like. It also supports pupils' wellbeing by helping them identify when relationships are unsafe or harmful and how to seek help.

Sex education, by contrast, provides factual, age-appropriate information about human sexuality, reproduction, contraception, and the development of intimate relationships. It includes teaching about safer sex, sexual health, and how to make informed choices as young people mature. This aspect of the curriculum helps pupils understand the physical, emotional and social aspects of sexual development without encouraging early sexual activity. It also ensures they can access reliable information, ask questions safely, and develop the confidence to make responsible decisions.

Within our Life Skills curriculum, the only content that constitutes sex education without a direct relationships component is delivered in two specific units. In Year 9, this is limited to the summer-term RSE module, which covers safe sexual practices, sexually transmitted infections, and the influence and impact of pornography. In Year 11, sex-education-only content appears within the Let's Talk About It module, which includes teaching on safe sex, STIs, personal safety, sexual and reproductive health, pregnancy, miscarriage and abortion. All other aspects of the curriculum integrate sex education within a broader relationships-focused framework.

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 pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

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

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their 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 the Senior Leadership Team through medium term plans, learning walks and lesson observations.

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

11. Assessment

As with any learning, the assessment of pupils' RSE is important as it enables the teacher to gauge their progress and it also informs the development of the lessons. Their progress is monitored through creation of posters, leaflets, diaries, class discussions, group work and surveys. At the end of each half term, pupils complete a short quiz to assess their understanding of the Life Skills curriculum. This enables staff to identify and address any misconceptions and to revisit areas where further reinforcement is needed. Pupil voice is used termly to adapt and amend material for RSE and ensure it is relevant and effective to both our learners and the wider community.

12. Safeguarding

RSE works with pupils' real-life experiences and it is key that both staff and pupils are protected in these lessons. Teachers of RSE create a safe and supportive environment by use of ground rules which are referred to at the beginning of a school year and each time a sensitive topic is discussed. These include listening to each other, challenging the statement not the individual making it, the right to not answer a question, no personal questions to be asked by pupils or teachers, keeping examples anonymous. Many issues covered in RSE are of a sensitive nature, so RSE teachers and indeed all staff receive regular safeguarding training and the boundaries around confidentiality are made explicit to learners.

If a question is outside the planned learning or raises a safeguarding concern, staff will acknowledge it respectfully, provide a general response where appropriate, and explain that some matters are better discussed privately or with a trusted adult. Teachers do not offer personal opinions or disclose personal information and will always follow the school's safeguarding procedures, recording and reporting concerns in line with statutory guidance to ensure pupils' wellbeing and protection.

13. Signposting

Teachers of RSE ensure that pupils leave lessons with information on where to get support about that topic area. This could include who to talk to in school or which websites to look at.

14. SEND

All pupils have equal rights to RSE education. Teaching of RSE is differentiated and personalised to meet the needs of all pupils. RSE is adapted to ensure that pupils with SEND can access the curriculum in a meaningful and developmentally appropriate way. Teaching is differentiated through the use of clear, pre-taught and simplified language, ensuring no colloquial terms are used to avoid misconceptions where possible, visual supports, structured routines, and additional processing time, with key concepts broken down into smaller, manageable steps. Staff work closely with the SEND team to tailor content to individual needs, taking into account pupils' cognitive, communication and social-emotional profiles. Where required, pupils may receive small-group support to reinforce understanding. This approach ensures that all pupils are able to engage with RSE safely, confidently and at a level appropriate to their stage of development.

Appendix 1: RSE Curriculum Content Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education July 2025

Schools should continue to develop knowledge on topics specified for primary as required and in addition cover the following content by the end of secondary.

Families

Pupils should know:

- 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 – for example, 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), how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed

Respectful relationships, including friendships

Pupils should know:

- the characteristics of positive and healthy friendships, in all contexts including online, such as:
 - 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 (for example, 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

Pupils should know:

- 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
- 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, for example 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

Pupils should know:

- 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

Pupils should know:

- 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, for example 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 and menopause
- 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 and 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

The Law

It is important to know what the law says about sex, relationships and young people, as well as broader safeguarding issues. This includes a range of important facts and the rules regarding sharing personal information, pictures, videos and other material using technology. This will help young people to know what is right and wrong in law, but it can also provide a good foundation of knowledge for deeper discussion about all types of relationships. There are also many different legal provisions whose purpose is to protect young people and which ensure young people take responsibility for their actions.

Pupils should be made aware of the relevant legal provisions when relevant topics are being taught, including for example:

- marriage
- consent, including the age of consent
- violence against women and girls
- online behaviours including image and information sharing (including 'sexting', youth-produced sexual imagery, nudes, etc.)
- pornography
- abortion
- sexuality
- gender identity
- substance misuse
- violence and exploitation by gangs
- extremism and radicalisation
- criminal exploitation (for example, through gang involvement or 'county lines' drugs operations)
- hate crime
- female genital mutilation (FGM)

Appendix 2: Parent form: withdrawal from specific topic of 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	