



Cleves School
Learning Together

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY AND PROCEDURE 2026

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| Review date | January 2026 |
| Reviewed by | Natasha Green |
| Guidance referenced | DfE Guidance September 2021 DfE Guidance July 2025 (for September 2026) The Key for Leaders Surrey County Council |
| Approved by | The Children's Achievement and Well Being Committee on behalf of Cleves Board of Trustees |
| Review cycle | Every 3 years |
| Next review date | January 2029 |

1. Aims

Through its Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) programme, the school aims to provide children with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. In providing children with an understanding of healthy and respectful relationships and appropriate boundaries, we consider effective RSE to be a fundamental part of our approach to supporting pupils to grow into confident, caring, responsible and respectful young citizens.

RSE is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. **RSE is not about promoting sexual activity. Pupils will learn about sexual orientation factually and respectfully as part of understanding diverse families and relationships.**

The school aims to work in partnership with parents and carers, and understands the importance of sharing with them the RSE programme so that they are able to support their children at home to enable them to:

- Develop feelings of self-confidence and self-respect alongside those of value and respect for others.
- Prepare children for the physical and emotional changes which happen in puberty and to understand that these occur at different ages and at varying rates.
- Consider some of the changes over which they have no control and the choices they can make concerning those over which they do have control.
- Respond to the needs of parents, carers and pupils by providing accurate knowledge of sexual matters at a level suitable to children's age and understanding to dispel myths and rumour.
- Help children to understand sexual intercourse as a possible part of a consenting relationship between adults.
- Foster an open attitude of mind which enables awareness and tolerance of a variety of different family backgrounds, including non-heterosexual.
- Promote the skills necessary for effective communication in loving, caring and happy relationships.
- Provide a consistent standard of relations, sex and health education across the school.
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- Promote responsible behaviour.
- Create a positive culture of communication around issues of relationships.
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.
- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Prepare pupils for puberty, giving them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Give pupils an understanding of reproduction and sexual development.
- Ensure that all pupils, by the time they reach secondary school age, are well equipped and on an equal footing, to deal with the secondary PSHE curriculum.
- To provide all pupils with knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable them to make positive and healthy choices concerning relationships as they grow up and deal with risk.
- Combat exploitation.

The RSE programme will reflect the school's vision to demonstrate and teach values, skills, knowledge and understanding which pupils need to lead confident, healthy lives and to become informed, active responsible citizens.

All parents have the right to withdraw their children for all or part of the RSE lessons. The school will follow its procedures, which have been written in accordance with the guidelines for RSE from the Department for Education, Surrey County Council Sex and Relationships Guide for Effective Programmes in Schools (4-19), and the National Curriculum 2000 for Science and PSHE.

Due to the nature of the subject, this policy should be read and implemented in conjunction with other existing, related policies, including Equality Policy, Inclusion Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy and ICT Policy including the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

2. Statutory requirements

As a junior school, Cleves must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. This policy has been written in accordance with the statutory guidance document "**Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education**" (DfE, 2021 & 2025).

By the summer term 2021, all primary schools must teach relationships and health education. The teaching of sex education in primary schools remains non-statutory, with the exception of the elements of sex education contained in the science national curriculum: including knowledge of the main external body parts, the changes as humans develop to old age, and reproduction in some plants and animals. Other related topics that fall within the statutory requirements for health education, such as puberty, mental wellbeing, and menstrual hygiene, will be included within PSHE education lessons.

3. Definitions

- **Relationships Education:** Teaching about the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to respectful friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and adults, including online.
- **Health Education:** Teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing, focusing on recognising the link between the two and being able to make healthy lifestyle choices. Lessons include strategies for managing emotions, coping with changes, and maintaining mental wellbeing.
- **Sex Education:** Teaching children how human reproduction occurs, including how a baby is conceived and born. This draws on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science. Non-statutory Sex Education outside Science and statutory Health Education (physical changes in puberty) is identified clearly.

4. Description of school

Cleves is a large six-form entry junior school catering for children from seven to eleven. Cleves is 'fed' primarily by two infant schools - Manby Lodge and Oatlands Infant School.

The pupil intake is mainly white European with approximately 40% other ethnic groups represented, including Indian, Afro-Caribbean, Chinese, Japanese, Thai and Bangladeshi.

5. Delivery of RSE

- RSE is delivered age-appropriately by class teachers in class groups, with opportunities for small group or single-gender discussions where appropriate.
- Ground rules include: listening politely, respecting contributions, using anatomically correct language, and having the right not to speak.
- Outside speakers may be invited with prior agreement on content and age-appropriateness.
- Online safety is linked to relationships, highlighting risks of sharing personal information and unsafe online interactions.

6. Morals and values framework

- Lessons focus on personal responsibility, the value of family life, and respect for diverse families, including single-parent and LGBTQ+ families.
- Emotional wellbeing strategies, empathy, and resilience are embedded throughout.

7. Equal opportunities

- RSE is delivered in accordance with the school's Equality Policy.
- Single-sex groups are used for puberty discussions if appropriate.
- Teaching is inclusive and reflects the diversity of family structures.

8. Right of withdrawal

- Parents may withdraw children from non-statutory sex education lessons.
- Parents are informed of learning objectives and lesson content in advance.
- Any discussions of sexual issues outside the RSE curriculum cannot be guaranteed to be avoided.

9. Organisation and delivery of RSE programme

- Curriculum follows Science objectives alongside PSHE and RSE.
- Pupils in older years learn about sexual intercourse between consenting adults and reproductive health, in an age-appropriate, factual, and respectful way.
- Lessons include emotional and social development, positive relationships, and online safety.

10. Sensitive issues

- Teachers answer questions honestly and age-appropriately.
- LGBTQ+ topics are included factually and respectfully.
- Ground rules ensure a safe, inclusive environment.
- Teachers link sensitive discussions to safeguarding procedures when necessary.

11. Confidentiality

- Confidentiality is respected unless child protection concerns arise.
- Pupils are encouraged to involve parents/carers when appropriate.
- Disclosures of abuse or female genital mutilation follow statutory requirements.

12. Special Educational Needs

- Differentiated RSE is provided to ensure full participation for pupils with SEND.

13. Complaints procedure

- Concerns should be raised with the class teacher, following the school complaints procedure if unresolved.

14. Review and assessment

- Teachers use formal and informal assessments to monitor understanding.
- Pupil feedback informs adaptation of lessons.
- Annual reviews by year groups feed back to the PSHE coordinator.
- Emotional wellbeing and relationship skills are monitored alongside factual knowledge.

15. Roles and responsibilities

- **Board of Trustees:** Oversight delegated to Children's Achievement and Wellbeing Committee.
- **Headteacher:** Ensures consistent delivery, manages withdrawals, monitors policy, provides staff training.
- **Staff:** Deliver inclusive, sensitive RSE; model positive attitudes; respond to individual pupil needs; trained to cover LGBTQ+ content, online safety, and emotional wellbeing.
- **Pupils:** Engage respectfully and sensitively.
- **Parents:** Supported in the home role for RSE through engagement and information.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Statutory RSE Curriculum Content

- **Families and People Who Care for Me:** Respect diverse families, including LGBTQ+ parents.
- **Caring Friendships:** Communication, conflict resolution, empathy.
- **Respectful and Kind Relationships:** Anti-bullying, respect, permission in relationships.
- **Online Safety and Awareness:** Safe digital interactions, privacy, online risks.
- **Being Safe:** Boundaries, appropriate contact, where to seek help.

Appendix 2 – RSE Programme Content

- Years 3–6 follow **Channel 4 Living and Growing**, with age-appropriate progression.
- Year 6 covers sexual intercourse in the context of consenting adults, responsibilities of parenting, and emotional development.
- Emotional wellbeing, empathy, coping strategies, and online safety are embedded across three lessons.