



# Relationships & Sexuality (RSE) Policy

Policy reviewed: *Autumn 2024*

Policy valid until: *Autumn 2026*

Policy owned by: *The Headteacher*

*Headteacher:* \_\_\_\_\_

*For and on behalf of the Governing Body:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **Introduction**

This policy details Ysgol St George's whole school approach to Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). At Ysgol St George, we believe that high quality RSE is vital for the personal, social and emotional development of our pupils.

RSE is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Learning for RSE refers to both what is expressly taught and what is embedded throughout the curriculum through our whole school approach.

Our RSE programme:

- will equip our pupils with the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships, and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.
- is developmentally appropriate, relevant and engaging with clear progression pathways for learning and experience.
- has equal status to other areas of the curriculum.

We believe that by providing high quality RSE we are upholding the ethos, values, and moral framework of our school by showing respect for all pupils, staff and the wider community, celebrating differences and by building healthy relationships. Everything we do is through the prism of our motto

***"Learning and succeeding in our caring Christian community"***

where love and care is shown for all.

We have developed this policy in consultation with our staff, governing body, Local Authority, pupils and parents, and in alignment with the latest guidance by:

- Welsh Government
  - [Curriculum for Wales Guidance, 2020](#)
  - [Keeping Learners Safe Guidance, 2016](#)
  - [Curriculum for Wales – Relationships and Sexuality Education Code, 2022](#)
- UK Government
  - [Equality Act, 2010](#)

This policy should be read in conjunction with our other policies, including: Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policies, Equality Policy, Child Protection Policy and the [Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)]

## **Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code 2022**

Historically, parents/carers were entitled to withdraw their child/children from Sex and Relationships Education, however, the "Curriculum for Wales Guidance, 2020", and "Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code 2022" **does not provide parents/carers with the right to withdraw**. In order to ensure compliance with the mandatory requirements outlined within these documents Relationships and Sexuality Education will be mandatory for all pupils from September 2022.

"Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code 2022" stipulates that our RSE provision must be developmentally appropriate for each pupil. This may mean some pupils will be ready for specific learning before the broad indications given in the "Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code 2022", but likewise it may mean that some pupils need opportunity for further development before they engage with specific learning. As we plan our RSE provision for each child we will take into account factors such as age, knowledge, maturity, any additional learning needs, as well as their physiological and emotional development. If we have any questions in regards to the developmental requirements of a pupil we will consult with parents/carers and other professionals to ensure that the planned content and delivery method is developmentally for their needs. If parents/carers have any questions around ensuring the provision is

developmentally appropriate for their child, they arrange an appointment with their child's class teacher or can contact Mrs Wilkinson.

## **RSE Programme**

Our aim is to support our pupils' rights to enjoy equitable, safe, healthy and fulfilling relationships throughout their lives. This includes the ability to recognise, understand and speak out about discrimination and violence and know how and where to seek support, advice and factual information on a range of RSE issues.

Our RSE programme is:

- inclusive and tailored to suit the individual needs of our pupils.
- developmentally appropriate for each learner, meaning that learners' needs of similar ages may differ (this is detailed further in our RSE Scheme of Work).
- focused on healthy relationships and identity, sexual health and well-being, empowerment, and safety and respect (as detailed in "Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code, 2022").
- based on the following thematic areas: relationships; rights and equity; sex, gender and sexuality; bodies and body image; sexual health and well-being; and violence, safety and support.

## **RSE Scheme of Work**

Core to our RSE provision at Ysgol St George is our RSE scheme of work. The scheme of work document can be provided to parents on request. It is shared with parents ahead of any RSE work delivered, usually there is also a "pop in" session for parents to see our RSE resources. Our RSE scheme of work details how we manage, organise and embed RSE throughout our whole school curriculum. The document clearly states how we ensure our programme is developmentally appropriate in alignment with "Curriculum for Wales Guidance, 2020", and "Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code, 2022".

Our RSE scheme of work highlights all resources we use to deliver this programme to our pupils. All resources are carefully selected for their suitability and are reviewed for their effectiveness following their use by teachers and the lead RSE member of staff.

## **Teaching RSE**

Teachers and the lead RSE member of staff will undertake the planning, teaching, evaluating and monitoring of the school's RSE programme. Ysgol St George will ensure a safe learning environment for teachers, staff and pupils by establishing and agreeing to the school's class rules and arrangement.

Our staff should not answer personal questions about themselves or to ask direct personal questions of their pupils that could make either party vulnerable.

## **Answering Pupils Questions**

RSE explores a range of issues that may provoke questions from pupils. We view questions as a positive sign that pupils are engaged with what is being taught and feel able to express natural curiosities about themselves, their bodies and relationships with others.

As much as possible, where a question is relevant to the whole class, we will answer it to the whole group. There may occasionally be the need to deal with a question outside of the classroom if it is not suitable for the entire class. When these situations arise, we will ensure that two members of staff are present as the teacher addresses the raised question with the pupil. If a teacher becomes concerned about a pupil in any way or any disclosures are made the school's safeguarding policy and procedures will be followed.

We believe that an open approach to answering questions prevents pupils from learning inaccurate or harmful information online, or from peers and older pupils. We believe that examining issues with the whole class is essential to reduce the stigma and embarrassment that can surround some of the issues explored in RSE. We believe that children are better protected from harm and abuse when they are able to discuss issues openly in a safe environment with trained professionals.

## **Working with Other Organisations**

In order to ensure that Ysgol St George pupils receive the best possible RSE education we work collaboratively with health, educational, and youth service colleagues and other external organisations to enrich our programme. We carefully select partners and external organisations, ensuring that they are reputable organisations with expertise in RSE.

The organisations we work with at Ysgol St George include:

- Our school nursing team
- The SPECTRUM Project
- NSPCC

Before any of the above organisations deliver RSE content, our lead RSE staff will:

- ensure that they are a reputable organisation with expertise in RSE. If the school is uncertain about the credibility of an organisation, the RSE lead will contact the Local Authority for guidance and support.
- ensure the school receives written confirmation from the external organisation, verifying the individual's appropriate qualifications and skills to work with children and young people, as well as their commitment to adhering to our safeguarding policy.
- review the content, resources, and delivery method, ensuring that they are safe and developmentally appropriate for our students and in full alignment with the "Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code, 2022" and this policy.

When an organisation is invited to deliver a session for the pupils on any topic covered by our RSE policy, we stipulate that a teacher (familiar to the pupils) must be present at all times. The attendance of a teacher is essential to ensure that the:

- content is suitable and developmentally appropriate for our pupils.
- external deliverer is aware of any additional needs that some learners may have.
- teacher is fully aware of what was discussed during the session.
- teacher can effectively answer questions from pupils following the session.
- teacher can consolidate and build on the information presented during the session with the pupils.

## **Consultation**

### **Pupils**

At Ysgol St George we have embedded a number of pupil consultation approaches in our practice to ensure the RSE curriculum we provide meets the needs of our pupils. These approaches include:

- pupils are consulted, through our Senedd St George, as we review, plan, and update our Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) policy and scheme of work.
- pupils have an opportunity to take part, twice a year, in a pupil wellbeing survey. The survey we administer is the Conwy Pupil Wellbeing Survey. This survey gives our pupils an opportunity to tell us about how they see their world and the education they receive at Ysgol St George. The survey's result provides us with key insights

into our pupils' needs, and we use this insight to adapt and hone our curriculum to ensure our pupils' needs are met.

- continuous engagement with our pupils throughout their lessons, and through our Senedd St George. Pupils will also have opportunities to ask confidential/anonymous questions by using an anonymous question box. We will answer all questions sensitively, in a developmentally appropriate manner. If we are unsure about the most appropriate way to respond to a question, we will seek support and guidance from recognised professional experts.

### **Parents/Carers**

At Ysgol St George we believe that parents/carers are crucial to the success of the RSE programme, and therefore communicate regularly with them to foster a positive relationship. Our engagement with parents/carers is purposeful and aims to ensure a meaningful dialogue about our RSE programme. We work with parents/carers to ensure that they are aware of what we teach and when through the following methods:

- Inductions to the school and our school prospectus
- Parents' information sessions ("Pop In" sessions)
- Parents' evenings
- Sharing of the policy on the school's website
- Emails to parents/carers giving information about RSE
- Sharing our plans for RSE sessions

We also provide information to support parents/carers how they can support learning about RSE within and outside the school environment.

If parents/carers have any concerns or specific considerations the school should be aware of, or would like any further information about the curriculum, we have a pop-in session for them to come into school before our topic (that incorporates RSE) begins. As part of the school's whole school approach to RSE, parents/carers will have opportunities to view the materials and resources used at this session.

### **Ensuring Quality**

We regularly monitor our RSE planning, teaching and learning to ensure the highest quality, and that the programme meets the needs of our pupils, the "Curriculum for Wales Guidance, 2020", and "Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code 2022".

We will ensure the quality of our RSE provision through:

- lesson observations,
- planning audits,
- listening to learners, book sharing (amongst staff, with governors and GwE SIA)
- analysing pupil attendance in lessons.

### **Continuous Professional Development**

As a school, we are committed to the whole school approach to RSE. To ensure that our provision is of the highest quality for all our pupils we commit to support our teaching staff to develop their confidence, knowledge and skills to effectively deliver RSE. We will support our staff to ensure that their delivery is effective, developmentally appropriate and meets the needs of our pupils by engaging in relevant course and sessions offered by Conwy Health and Wellbeing Team.

<i>Name of the staff member who leads this area:</i>	Sian Wilkinson
<i>Name of the governor with responsibility for this area:</i>	Lucinda Moore