



Cavendish
Primary School

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Date of Issue	Review Date	Date Ratified by Governing Body
March 2026	March 2027	March 2026

Aims

The purpose of our RSE programme is to develop pupil's knowledge, skills and attitudes so that they make informed choices about their behaviour, feel confident and competent about acting on these choices and move with confidence from childhood through to adolescence. We aim for pupils to understand positive, healthy relationships and their bodies, know how to seek support; understand they have a responsibility to treat others with empathy and respect; develop the skills of communication, empathy, critical thinking and decision making.

Curriculum Design

At Cavendish, we follow The Story Project's story-led, spiral curriculum, which:

- Covers all statutory RSE requirements
- Meets additional non-statutory PSHE outcomes
- Embeds safeguarding, consent, online safety, and emotional wellbeing
- Ensures children revisit key themes with increasing depth
- Is fully inclusive, age-appropriate, and matched to the needs of all pupils

Our RSE programme revisits key themes each year, with increasing depth, ensuring age-appropriate learning and differentiation to meet the needs of all pupils. Lessons link to and complement learning in other areas of the curriculum.

Organisation

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is delivered through a planned, sequenced curriculum and is not taught in isolation but embedded across relevant areas of the wider curriculum. The majority of RSE content is taught through PSHE education (The Story Project) and Science, in line with statutory guidance. In addition, weekly Cavendish Curriculum lessons are carefully aligned with the same themes as *The Story Project* and further support pupils' personal development through our key curriculum drivers: Experiences that shape us, Our place in the world, Happy, Healthy Me, and The Future Me. These lessons extend learning in key areas including friendships, respectful relationships, boundaries and consent, body autonomy, online behaviour, bullying (including online bullying) and mental wellbeing. These sessions also further promote understanding of and respect for protected characteristics, in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Visitors

Visitors from supporting external agencies are invited into school to support the RSE curriculum and deliver subject specific workshops/assemblies in their area of expertise. All visitors are familiar with and understand the school's RSE policy and work within it. Visitors are supervised and supported by a member of staff at all times and their input is monitored by staff. If a visitor or external agency receives a disclosure from a pupil, they must report it immediately to the class teacher or DSL in line with the school's safeguarding procedures. Protocols for inviting visitors include prior approval from the PSHE/RSE lead and the DSL, with clear guidance on safeguarding responsibilities and expectations.

Inclusivity and equality

At Cavendish, we ensure RSE is inclusive and meets the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), by adapting teaching approaches, resources and support. We ensure RSE fosters equality by representing diverse families, relationships and experiences and challenging stereotypes.

Assessment and Evaluation

Elements of sex education in the science curriculum are assessed formally using the White Rose Science Scheme. Assessment and evaluation of the RSE programme outside of Science is conducted using a variety of informal activities which are built into the curriculum. This includes peer and self-assessment, pupil voice and surveys. Teachers delivering RSE constantly evaluate their lessons to inform future planning. Any formal recording of work will be kept in Science, PSHE or floor books.

Safeguarding and safe, effective practice

Safeguarding is central to our approach to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Our RSE policy operates within the school's wider safeguarding framework and is informed by statutory guidance, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (DfE, 2025), alongside other relevant school policies relating to child protection, online safety and pupil wellbeing. Robust child protection, safeguarding and confidentiality procedures are in place to ensure that RSE is delivered safely and that pupils are appropriately supported at all times. Staff recognise that RSE lessons may prompt disclosures of safeguarding concerns. Where this occurs, teachers follow the school's safeguarding procedures without delay and report concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Pupils who are considered to be particularly vulnerable, or who may be at increased risk of harm, are supported in line with the school's safeguarding and child protection policies.

Links to other policies

Our RSE policy complements and links to other school policies, including:

- Safeguarding and child protection policy
- Online safety policy
- Anti-bullying policy

By embedding safeguarding within RSE, we ensure that pupils can explore sensitive topics in a safe environment, receive support if needed and understand how to seek help both in school and beyond.

Openness with Parents and Carers

We work in close partnership with parents and carers to ensure they are fully informed about our RSE programme.

- The RSE policy is available to parents through the school website.
- Parents are informed when RSE units will be taught and of the books and materials used.
- We are committed to openness with parents through regular communication via parent consultations.
- Governors are kept informed about the curriculum.
- Pupil voice is used to review and tailor our RSE programme to match the different needs of pupils.

We consult with parents on any policy changes and provide opportunities for discussion to ensure they understand and support what is being taught.

Withdrawal requests.

If we need to deliver elements of sex education as part of relationships education or PSHE, parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from those lessons. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the head teacher. A copy of any such request will be placed in the pupil's file so that parents'/carers' wishes are on record.

We will provide and supervise appropriate learning activities, in another room, for pupils who are withdrawn from sex education. There are exceptions to parts of the curriculum that pupils are not able to withdraw from;

Puberty - Learning about puberty is part of statutory Health Education.

All pupils must learn: the changes that happen to the body during puberty; how to manage these changes; how to maintain physical and emotional wellbeing. Parents cannot withdraw their child from these lessons.

Science curriculum - The national curriculum for science requires pupils to learn; the basic stages of the human life cycle; how humans grow and change; the biological facts of human reproduction. These lessons are part of statutory science and therefore cannot be withdrawn.

Parents/carers with concerns over the right to withdraw are invited in to see the Headteacher or PSHE Subject Leader who will explore any concerns.

Answering Difficult Questions

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

Pupils' questions are answered according to their age and maturity. Questions do not have to be answered directly and can be addressed individually or referred to parents/carers later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to parents, carers or the designated safeguarding lead if they are concerned.

We believe that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with issues arising.

Dissemination

All staff members and governors have access to the RSE policy. The RSE policy is available on the school website, paper copies can also be requested from the school office.