

Ivybridge Community College

Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE) 2021 - 2024

Governor responsible:	Local Governing Board
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This policy will be reviewed by the College Governing Board every three years: March 2024	

Mission Statement

"Ivybridge Community College aims to provide an integrated, comprehensive curriculum in an environment where the whole learning experience is one of opportunity, endeavour, achievement and excellence."

Introduction

The intent of RSE is to provide balanced factual information in line with the Department for Education statutory guidance from September 2020. Documents that inform this RSE Policy include:

- Education Act (1996)
- Learning and Skills Act (2000)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Supplementary guidance for the 21st Century (2014)
- Keeping safe in education (2016)
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)

Definition of Relationship and Sex Education

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is an educational entitlement for all children and young people. It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development and sex, sexuality and sexual health. It enhances the self-worth and confidence of each individual and encourages mutually respectful relationships and empathy for others.

What is Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)?

At Ivybridge Community College we believe that RSE is an entitlement for all our students and is delivered through our Citizenship, Personal, Social and Health Education (CPSHE) as well as in Science lessons. It is an integral and essential part of our students' overall education and the acquisition of skills for life which encourage a responsible attitude to sexual behaviour, including respect for oneself, respect for others and recognition of the complex emotions involved in such relationships.

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Our RSE programme at Ivybridge Community College intends to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- Develop positive values and attitudes and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and have respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- Avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex, including understanding consent.
- Communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
- Develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism, prejudice, and promote equality and diversity.
- Understand the reasons for having protected sex and be able to access our local sexual health services with confidence as appropriate.
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships.
- Encouraging every student to develop attitudes and skills which will enable them to be confident about the physical, emotional and moral aspects of sexual maturity.
- Emphasise the importance of stable relationships and family, taking into account the various interpretations of family situations and approaches.
- Encourage students to develop a respect for each other's views and the important values of love, respect and care.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents/carers play a key role in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health and other professionals.
- Learn about contraception, the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services. Learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay.

Relationship and Sex Education at Ivybridge Community College has three main elements:

1. **Attitudes and Values** - RSE places importance on:
 - Learning the importance of respect, love and care, individual conscience and moral choices.
 - Learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage. Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
 - Challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.
2. **Personal and Social Skills** - RSE includes:
 - Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
 - Developing self-respect and empathy for others.

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- Learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice.
 - Developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
 - Learning to manage conflict.
 - Empowering students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter).
3. **Knowledge and Understanding** - RSE and the Science Curriculum equip students with learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages. It also helps them to understand human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.

Organisation of Sex and Relationship Education

Ivybridge Community College delivers Relationship and Sex Education specifically through our CPSHE Programme in Years 7 - 13 and Science lessons from Years 7 to 11 and throughout other areas of the broader curriculum, for example in media and English. Within CPSHE the sexual health programme is delivered in tutor bases and in terms of RSE includes sessions led by experts from our local outside agencies. CPSHE lessons focus on the emotional aspects of relationships. The scientific aspects of reproduction and puberty are delivered by staff in the Science Department: such lessons are concerned with the physical aspects of development, reproduction and contraception.

Before embarking on RSE within CPSHE lessons (all of which have content that is age and stage appropriate), the ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, staff aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time. Any concerns, including disclosures, are immediately referred to our Safeguarding Team.

Inclusion

Catering for the needs of all our students is paramount at Ivybridge Community College. We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. We also ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, unless extracted by parents, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary and considering previous experiences and family situations. We deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality, need to feel that Relationship and Sex Education is relevant to them.

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Relationship and Sex Education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. In this instance parents are asked to communicate this through their child's Academic Performance Leader. The College will then make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with

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staff at the earliest opportunity and are welcome to review any RSE resources the College uses.

Confidentiality

Whilst every lesson will be handled sensitively, confidentiality cannot always be guaranteed. Students will be made aware that if they make a disclosure that raises safeguarding concerns, then the information will need to be passed onto the Safeguarding Team to ensure their safety. Absolute priority is given to ensuring that students are familiar with the boundaries of the College's Safeguarding Policy in order that they can make informed decisions about whether and to whom to disclose sensitive information. Equally, the College has a responsibility to ensure that students are made aware of, and signposted to, local impartial, confidential services which operate to national guidelines and policy. Teachers are unable to offer contraceptive or sexual health guidance and should always inform students of local agencies from which they can seek impartial and confidential support in line with national guidelines. All concerns about sexual activity involving a child under 16 years must be discussed with the College's Designated Safeguarding Lead as a safeguarding issue, under the College's safeguarding procedures.

Monitoring, evaluation and assessment

Evaluation and assessment including self-assessment are an integral part of CPSHE lessons through which RSE is delivered.

Review frequency: Three years

Review date: March 2024

Last updated: March 2021

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