

Houlton School: Statutory Relationships and Sex Education

All schools are required to comply with legal duties when teaching [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education](#). As part of our Houlton Family, we will work in partnership with parents/carers to support pupils as they grow and develop to ensure they have the right information and skills to keep safe and understand their responsibilities both in society and to themselves as they navigate through their secondary education.

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives, PHRSE education can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support. High quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects can help prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. They can also enable schools to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, at school and in society.

Relationships and Sex Education at Houlton School is taught as part of the Personal Development Programme and overseen by the Vice Principal for Personal Development, Behaviour and Safety.

Pupils with SEND

Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education must be accessible for all pupils. At Houlton School, staff are adept at using Quality First teaching strategies to ensure that all pupils in our mixed attainment classes make progress. Our provision in this area is mindful of the preparation for adulthood outcomes as set out in the SEND code of practice, when teaching these subjects to pupils with SEND. We are aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their SEND and that Relationships Education and RSE can also be particularly important subjects for some pupils; for example, those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs or learning disabilities. Support will be put in place to ensure pupils with additional needs can access the lessons in an appropriate way.

In consultation with parents/carers where a SEND pupil has a specific need there may be a need to tailor content and teaching to meet the specific needs of pupils at different developmental stages. As with all teaching for these subjects, we will ensure that teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate and delivered with reference to the law.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+)

In teaching Relationships Education and RSE, schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality, acceptance and respect. Schools must ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, (*please see The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice*), under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics. Schools should ensure that all teaching is sensitive and age appropriate in approach and content. At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT+, they should ensure that this content is fully integrated into their programmes of study for this area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a standalone unit or lesson. Schools are free to determine

how they do this, and at Houlton School we focus heavily on acceptance in line with the British Values and character values of our school and thematically embed LGBT+ through our curriculum.

Parent and Carers

At Houlton School we want to support parents/carers in this area of education and development and to ensure the messages being delivered at home support pupils to understand how to keep themselves safe. Our aim is to build on our relationships with families to ensure that parent voice is heard, and we work effectively to support parents/carers to manage conversations around these lessons at home by supporting parents where needed with resources and or information. Parents/carers do have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from all or parts of specific **sex education** lessons but not Relationships Education, if you have any concerns around the curriculum, we would however encourage you to get in touch first so we can discuss with you. You can read more in [this government publication](#) about the statutory duty to deliver RSE for all state-funded schools.

Sex Education

Working in consultation with parents/carers, below indicates the topics which will be covered in each year group as part of the specific Sex Education curriculum. We welcome parent/carer feedback and will regularly consult on our curriculum to ensure that it is reflective of developments in society and the needs of our pupils. We will contact parents/carers prior to sex education lessons taking place so that preparation can take place for follow up conversations at home. If you would like to discuss any areas of our Relationships and Sex Education curriculum, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Respectful and safe relationships	Introduction into sex	Law with regard to sexual health	Healthy relationships - including domestic violence	In Year 11, RSE will be embedded throughout the personal development curriculum for review and revisit. The Year 11 PHRSE lessons will be focussed on pupils safely progressing into adult life and 'next steps.'
Female Genital Mutilation	Unhealthy relationships	Sexual harassment and violence	Marriage including forced marriage and honour killings	
Friendship	STIs	Consent - including body language, verbal and state of mind	Impact of sex and relationships on health	
Families and parenting	Pregnancy	Sexual Pressure	Reproductive health	
Stereotypes	Contraception	Alcohol and drugs and impact on consent	Sexual advice and support	
Changing adolescent bodies	Child Images	Pornography - including fetishes	Child sexual exploitation	
Consent	Consent	Consent	Consent	

LGBTQ+ to run throughout all sessions		Sex education
		PHRSE / relationships education