

# YSGOL EIRIAS



## RELATIONSHIPS & SEXUALITY EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

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THIS POLICY HAS BEEN APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY

Signed:

Date: September 2022

# Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy

## Ysgol Eirias

Name of the staff member responsible for this policy:	
Name of the staff member who leads this area:	
Name of the governor with responsibility for this area:	
Date of adoption of this policy by the governing body:	
Date of next review of this policy:	

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## Statement by the Governing Body

This policy was adopted by Ysgol Eirias governing body on \_\_\_ 2022. The governing body will review this policy in two years on the \_\_\_ 2024 to ensure the policy complies with the needs of our pupils and the latest Welsh Government guidance and statutory regulations. If changes are needed, the school will consult with members of staff, parents/carers, and pupils. Any subsequent changes will be communicated clearly by the school website.

By adopting this policy, the governing body recognises its responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented, and that Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is fully resourced, staffed and timetabled to ensure that the school fulfils its legal obligations and meets the needs of our pupils.

# Introduction

This policy details Ysgol Eirias' whole school approach to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). At Ysgol Eirias 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, to enjoy their sexuality 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, by the inclusion of sexual diversity, celebrating differences and by building healthy relationships. Ysgol Eirias takes a whole-school approach in the delivery of RSE, which ensures that RSE topics are explored across a range of contexts and delivered with breadth and depth, empowering learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills to help keep them safe, happy, and healthy. Our learners' rights and responsibilities are at the heart of our RSE programmes of learning, fostering our ethos of 'succeeding together' and inspiring our learners to truly realise the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales.

We developed this policy in consultation with our staff, board of governors, pupils and parents/carers, and in alignment with the latest guidance by:

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

RSE includes the education on topics such as:

- Staying safe online and offline
- Bullying
- Sex and gender-based violence
- Domestic abuse
- Sexual health
- Prejudice and discrimination
- Equality

Policies on confidentiality, safeguarding, child protection and the [Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) should be read in conjunction with our RSE policy.

# 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 "The Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code, 2022").
- based on the following thematic areas: 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 Eirias is our RSE scheme of work. The scheme of work document is available on our school website. 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 "The 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 Eirias 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.

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

To enrich our RSE provision at Ysgol Eirias we work in partnership with a number of health, educational and youth service colleagues and other external organisations to ensure the best possible RSE educational experience for our pupils.

The organisations we work with at Ysgol Eirias include: School Nurses, Conwy Youth Service, Spectrum, Viva, The Proud Trust and Show Racism the Red Card.

We have carefully selected these organisations in order to supplement our RSE program by bringing specialised skills and approaches, and expertise to the school.

Prior to the delivery of RSE content by any of the above organisations, our lead RSE member of staff will review the content, resources and delivery method to ensure that they are safe and developmentally appropriate for our pupils. Our lead RSE member of staff will also ensure that the planned content, resources and delivery method fully complies with this policy, and enriches our RSE programme.

During delivery by any of the above organisations, we stipulate that a teacher must always be present throughout delivery. The presence of a teacher is essential to build on the pupil's learning after the session/s, to ensure the content is appropriate for our children, and to answer questions the pupils may subsequently have.

When any organisation runs 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. The attendance of a teacher is essential to ensure that:

- that the content is suitable and developmentally appropriate for our pupils.
- that the teacher is fully aware of what was discussed during the session.
- that the teacher can effectively answer questions from pupils following the session.
- that the teacher can consolidate and build on the information presented during the session with the pupils.

Any external partner must comply with this RSE policy and all other related policies, including the school's confidentiality and child protection policy.

# Consultation

## Pupils

At Ysgol Eirias 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.

Firstly, Year 7-13 pupils **have** the opportunity to comment specifically on the school's RSE policy, lessons and practice through consultation activities (as outlined in our RSE work plan).

Secondly, our pupils will take part in the biennial School Health Research Network (SHRN) survey. This survey gives our pupils an opportunity to respond to questions on emotional and physical health topics (including sex and relationships). The report we receive following the survey gives us key insights to the needs of our pupils and we use this insight to adapt our RSE curriculum to ensure we meet our pupils' needs.

Thirdly, we continuously engage with our pupils throughout their lessons, and through Student Voice. 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.

## Parents/Carers

At Ysgol Eirias we believe that parents/carers are crucial to the success of the RSE programme. We therefore provide information about what is delivered and we provide opportunities for parents/carers to comment on policy and practice. We work with parents/carers to ensure that they are aware of what we teach and when through the following methods:

At Ysgol Eirias we believe that parents / carers are vital to the success of the RSE program. We work with parents/carers to make sure they are aware of what we are teaching and when, through the following methods:

- The school website and social media page
- Inductions to the school
- Open mornings
- Parents/Carers evenings
- Letters to parents/carers giving information about RSE

We also provide information to support for parents/carers in fulfilling their role as educators about relationships, sex and sexuality at home by signposting parents to relevant support organisations and websites in letters and via the school website and social media page.

If parents/carers have any concerns or special circumstances the school should be aware of, or would like any further information about the curriculum, we will have a designated time for them to come into the school to meet with the Head of Learning/ RSE lead / Deputy Head Teacher. As part of the school's whole school approach to RSE, parents/carers will have opportunities to view the materials and resources used.

# Right to Withdraw

Historically, parents/carers were entitled to withdraw their child/children from RSE, however, the new Curriculum for Wales does not provide parents/carers with the right to withdraw. In order to ensure compliance with the new Curriculum for Wales we will follow the timetable below to make RSE mandatory for our pupils.

- From September 2023: RSE Mandatory for Year 7 and 8 pupils.
- From September 2024: RSE Mandatory for Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils.
- From September 2025: RSE Mandatory for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils.
- From September 2026: RSE Mandatory for all pupils.

We appreciate that this is a significant change, and during the period noted above, we will be working closely with all our parents/carers to ensure full awareness of the content and approaches of our RSE program.

As we implement the rollout of the new curriculum, if a parent/carer wishes to withdraw their child from RSE, they should inform the headteacher in writing and the school will keep a record of this. We will remind parents/carers annually that the request to withdraw is still in place and invite them to confirm whether they still want to withdraw their child from RSE.

## Ensuring Quality

### Quality Assurance Process

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 “The Curriculum for Wales - RSE Code 2022”.

We will ensure the quality of our RSE provision by: undertaking regular evaluations and audits, reviewing learner feedback, and conducting lesson reflections and book reviews in line with our Quality Assurance policies and practice.

### 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 providing ongoing staff training on RSE topics which will be delivered during Training Days and/or Twilight sessions and giving staff opportunity to share their training needs in staff questionnaires.