

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy 2024-5

This policy applies to students in year 11

Introduction and Aims

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) became compulsory in 2020 for all secondary schools. At Brampton College we seek to ensure that students are well prepared for all aspects of their lives as young adults in the 21st century world. To this end we have implemented the government guidance in **Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2019, updated September 2021)** so that we are fully compliant.

The topics covered within the RSE curriculum are wide-ranging and at times there may be understandable and legitimate areas of contention. This policy is designed to outline the purpose and content of RSE, whilst ensuring that all of the compulsory subject content is age and developmentally appropriate. We aim to teach RSE sensitively and inclusively, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of pupils and parents while always with the aim of providing pupils with the knowledge they need of the law and the legal implications of their actions.

In the PSHE classes in Year 11, teaching will build on knowledge acquired in younger years and develop further pupils' understanding with a focus on risk areas such as intimate relationships and sex. At Brampton we believe that mental wellbeing is central to a students' success and will enable them to build positive relationships. We know that young people are increasingly experiencing challenges to their health. The RSE curriculum will give them the knowledge and capability to take care of themselves and receive support if problems arise.

Under the provisions of the Equality Act, Brampton College will not unlawfully discriminate on the grounds of age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation and the delivery of RSE will reflect this.

RSE Policy and Curriculum Development and Review

The RSE policy and curriculum has been produced in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education, with input from our expert staff. It forms part of the Year 11 PSHE curriculum. We aim to deliver content in a sensitive, objective and balanced manner to enable students to comprehend the range of social attitudes and behaviour in modern-day society. This will empower them to consider their own attitudes and actions and make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions while they are at school, at home and in adult life.

The RSE policy and curriculum will be reviewed on an annual basis with consultation with parents where appropriate.

Resources

Class teachers, College counsellor, Adolescent Psychotherapist. We sometimes use outside speakers to complement our teaching of the RSE content. In this instance, speakers are asked to work within the framework of our RSE policy and adhere to the policy for visiting speakers. A teacher will be present throughout these lessons.

Content of the RSE Scheme of Work

Lesson 1 Explain the aims and the ground rules about discussion of sensitive topics, take the temperature, diagnosis of existing knowledge, specific needs and desires of students for information and discussion.

Review of existing understanding of online safety – content, contact, commerce.

Lesson 2 Relationships – remind of the rules of discussion. Relationships now and later in life – supportive/not supportive – what makes a good relationship? In literature, films, TV, what makes for good and less good relationships? Raising awareness...

Homework: find out by next week about differences between marriage, civil partnership, and cohabitation

Lesson 3 - marriage, civil partnership and cohabitation – what have they come up with? Legal differences and pros and cons - why choose one over another? Homework – review your understanding of consent – see GC resources (TEA; scenarios to discuss)

Lesson 4 Consent and the pressures around sexual behaviour. Reiterate rules of discussion and acknowledge varying levels of personal comfort with the topic. Discuss TEA and scenarios.

Lesson 5 Questions arising about last week's discussion? Move on to safety and sexual health – the science, myths, threats and protection – the practicalities. See GC Sexwise contraception chart

Lesson 6 Safety and sexual health continued – the science, myths, threats and protection – the practicalities

Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education delivered as part of the statutory RSE. Parents must state their request in writing to the Head. Parents will then be invited into college to discuss the request to ensure that their wishes are fully understood. We will clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum alongside the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on their child, e.g. the emotional and social effects of being excluded as well as the likelihood of the child

hearing their peers' version of what was learned in the class rather than what was delivered by the teacher.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the college will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child. Requests from parents must be made annually for consideration. However, three terms before the child turns 16 years old they are legally able to make their own decision as to whether to receive sex education. The college will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms and a parental request of withdrawal will not be granted.

There is no right to withdraw from relationship education.

Training

Approval of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Vice Principal and the Assistant Vice Principal. Ultimate approval of the policy rests with the Principal.

Linked Policies:

Curriculum Policy

PSHE Policy

SEND Policy

Safeguarding Policy

Review Date:

September 2025