

RSE Statement

Pathways Education is a special independent school that caters for children with social, emotional, and mental health needs. Our ethos is to provide children who have additional needs the opportunity to achieve academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviourally and therefore we are committed to providing a therapeutic, fulfilling and efficient education to all children and embrace the concept of equal opportunities for all. At Pathways, staff strive to create an atmosphere where every member of the school community feels respected and valued, where self-esteem is nurtured and where principles of tolerance and equal opportunities are seen in action, that the teaching of how to build good relationships is a vital and natural part of everyday school life.

The DfE guidance states that “The aim of RSE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships.”

The aims of sex and relationship education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Prepare children for puberty and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Help children develop feelings of self-respect, confidence, and empathy.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
- Teach children the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.
- Ensure that children are given the opportunity to discuss the rights of children and adults and how these rights impact on relationships.
- Ensure that our children’s mental health and well-being is paramount for them to be confident and go on to secure and maintain positive relationships.

We want our young people to be able to make responsible and informed decisions about their lives to the best of their ability. We want pupils to have knowledge, skills and understanding to manage their emotions, conflict and keep themselves and others safe. We wish to help our young people develop an understanding of how they can protect themselves and to give them the confidence to seek help and support when they need it.

Our curriculum has been planned so that students learn and understand relationships. In the summer of the first year, students will learn about puberty and changes to their bodies. In the second year at Pathways, relationships will be taught in greater depth.

As with all elements of our curriculum, the range of ages and needs of our students must be carefully considered. In addition, teachers must carefully consider all protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) and teach with sensitivity.