YSGOL EMRYS ap IWAN

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION POLICY

To	Date
Curriculum, Standards & Well-being	*3 June 2020*
Full Governing Body	~~*24 June 2020*~~ *22 July 2020*
Next Review	*Summer Term 2022*
Curriculum, Standards & Well-being	*8 June 2022*
Full Governing Body	*22 June 2022*
Next Review	*Summer Term 2024*
Curriculum, Standards & Well-being	*5 June 2024*
Full Governing Body	*3 July 2024*
Next Review	*Summer Term 2026*
	(R3)
Curriculum, Standards & Well-being	*11 June 2026*
Full Governing Body	*9 July 2026*
Next Review	*Summer Term 2029*

This policy replaces the former 'Sex and Relationships Policy'.

Name of staff member responsible for the RSE policy: Matt Wildsmith
Name of the school's Relationships and Sexuality Education Lead: Matt WIldsmith
Name of Governor with responsibility for RSE: XXXXXXXXXXX

Relationships and sexuality education (Statement from Curriculum for Wales Guidance 2020).

Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) plays a vital role in enhancing learners' well-being and safety and will be mandatory within the Curriculum for Wales 2022:

Schools have an important role for prevention and protection, discussion and responding to learners' questions and needs. The aim is to create safe and empowering environments that build upon learners' own formal and informal learning and experiences, offline and online. This will enable learners to reflect and express their views and feelings on a range of RSE issues.

Relationships and sexuality education aims to gradually empower learners to build the knowledge, skills and ethical values for understanding how relationships, sex, gender and sexuality shape their own and other people's lives. It seeks to support learners' 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.

The schools' Relationships and Sexuality Education will include developmentally appropriate learning around the following thematic areas.

- **Rights and equity** - Learners will develop an understanding of how rights related to sex, gender, sexuality and relationships contribute to the freedom, equity, dignity, well-being and safety of all people.
- **Relationships -** Learners will develop an understanding of how different types of safe, consensual, healthy and fulfilling relationships can be formed and maintained.
- **Sex, gender and sexuality -** Learners will develop an understanding of sex, gender and sexuality. This includes how biology, society and culture shape our sense of self and relationships with others. The learning will recognise sexual identity, gender and LGBTQ+ diversity and understandings how sex, gender and sexuality have evolved over time.
- **Bodies and body image -** Learners will develop an understanding of the human body and how it changes over time, including people's feelings about their bodies, and their sexual and reproductive capacities and functions.

- **Sexual health and well-being -** Learners will develop an understanding of the positive role of sexuality in human life and a gradual awareness of personal sexual health and well-being. Learners will appreciate the different ways that people express sexuality across cultures, including myths about sexual health and well-being.
- **Violence, safety and support -** Learners will develop an understanding of the social, emotional, physical and legal nature and impact of gender-based and sexual violence, including online. Learners will be supported to manage conflict, risk and pressures of different kinds and to build confidence to speak out and know how to seek advice and support.

Welsh Government, Curriculum for Wales Guidance 2020

Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy

In order to comply with the mandatory status of RSE within the Curriculum for Wales 2022, the school is planning and developing a comprehensive, inclusive teaching and learning programme for RSE.

This policy encompasses the school's approach to RSE. It has been approved by the Senior Leadership Team through consultation with staff, governors, parents and learners.

The RSE policy links to and is consistent with the school's Equality, Safeguarding and Child Protection policies.

This policy is guided by current Welsh Government regulations, guidance and curriculum:

- Welsh Government Curriculum for Wales' guidance 2020.
- Welsh Government White Paper Relationships and Sexuality Education in schools 2019.
- Equality Act (2010).

Curriculum Design

In order to comply with Welsh Government, Curriculum for Wales Guidance 2020, the RSE curriculum will be taught through cross-cutting themes and will have equal status to other Areas of Learning and Experience. It will be delivered as a whole-school approach so that the following principles are supported and embedded across the school.

Learning:

- will be **rights and gender-equity based** so that learners can develop an understanding of how rights related to relationships, sex, gender and sexuality.
- will be **empowering** to enable teachers to create a positive RSE curriculum that enhances learner voice.
- will be **relevant and developmentally appropriate** to ensure that all RSE provision recognises and responds to all learners' needs.
- will be **co-produced**, offering learners the opportunity to be involved with decisions about learning and teaching in RSE.

- will be **creative** so that RSE provision can create an ethical, safe and engaging environment for learners to feel, think, question and share their thoughts on sensitive topics.
- will be **holistic with cross-cutting themes** that includes biological, social, psychological, spiritual, ethical and cultural elements.
- will be **inclusive** for all learners, recognising and valuing diversity and difference within sex, gender, sexuality and relationships, and ensuring that RSE provision is inclusive of LGBTQ+ lives.
- will be **protective and preventative** so that learners understand and recognise discrimination and violence and are able to seek support and advice regarding health, relationships, sex, gender equity and sexuality with confidence'.

The planning, teaching, evaluating and monitoring of the school's RSE programme will be undertaken by teachers and the Lead RSE. Learners are given opportunities to comment on the school's RSE policy, lessons and practice by undertaking consultation activities with learners. Their views contribute to curriculum planning and evaluating effectiveness.

Occasionally the school's programme may be supported by outside agencies e.g. Stonewall/Viva to support gender issues or a health professional to discuss sexual health. The teaching staff will be present throughout any lessons delivered by outside agencies.

The school's culture and environment

The school will ensure that RSE is embedded in the school's values and moral framework e.g. by showing respect for all learners, staff and the wider community, by inclusion of sexual diversity, celebrating differences and by building healthy relationships.

Teaching RSE

The school will ensure a safe learning environment for teachers, staff and learners by establishing and agreeing to the school's class agreements/rules.

Learners will have opportunities to ask confidential/anonymous questions when appropriate by using an anonymous question box. All questions will be answered sensitively and in a developmentally appropriate manner for learners.

All resources will be carefully selected for their suitability and are reviewed for their effectiveness following their use by teachers, learners and the Lead RSE member of staff.

Staff professional development

The school will ensure all teaching and associated members of staff receive appropriate RSE training in order to ensure the whole school RSE programme is effective, developmentally appropriate and meets the needs of learners.

Partnerships with parents/carers and the local community

The school recognises that parents/carers are crucial to the success of the RSE programme. The school therefore provides information about what is delivered and provides opportunities for parents/carers to comment on policy and practice by contacting parents by letter at the start of Year 7 (or within mid-year admissions packs) to explain the school's provision. The RSE policy is available to view on the school's website.

Parent/carers are welcome to make arrangements to visit the school if they wish to view and discuss the materials and resources used for RSE lessons.

RSE will be a mandatory requirement in the Curriculum for Wales for all learners from age 3 to 16 ("the Act"). This means that all learners must receive this education. There is no right to withdraw from RSE in the new curriculum. At Emrys ap Iwan, this applies to all learners who are in the year group, where the majority of learners started Year 7 in September 2023 and will continue for all subsequent cohorts of learners. However, the new curriculum is being phased in, therefore, some pupils may still be withdrawn from RSE pending the new curriculum arrangements being rolled out to their school year.