

Saltash Community School
Compulsory RSE from April 2021

FAQ's

Q: Will we still have to teach these subjects from September despite the recent disruption?

A: The subjects will be compulsory from September 2020. The Dfe states that Schools that have met the requirements set out in the statutory guidance, for example engaging parents and carers, are encouraged to begin teaching the new curriculum from September 2020. Schools that are not ready to teach the subjects, or are unable to meet the requirements because of the challenging circumstances, should aim to start preparations as soon as possible and begin teaching the new curriculum by at least the start of the summer term 2021. As we have been historically teaching the content and have been part of the government early adopter scheme as well as the Teaching South West PSHE ready network, we are ready to deliver the content from September 2020. Please see our PSHE programme for content.

Q: How have we engaged with our parents around the proposed Curriculum?

A: Schools will be required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered. Effective engagement gives the space and time for parents to input, ask questions, share concerns and for the school to decide the way forward. Schools will listen to parents' views, and then make a reasonable decision as to how they wish to proceed. When and how content is taught is ultimately a decision for the school, and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content.

We have consulted with our parental forum and our policies will be published online and year appropriate information will be sent to parents including consent in the permission paper work at the start of each academic year. We can also provide examples of the resources that we use, for example the books and resources that we will use in lessons.

Q: Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?

A: Parents will continue to have a right to request to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, should be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education as we believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Q: Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?

A: A thorough engagement process, involving a public call for evidence and discussions with over 90 organisations, as well as the public consultation on the draft regulations and guidance, has informed the key decisions on these subjects. The consultation received over 11,000 responses from teachers, schools, expert organisations, young people and parents – these responses have helped finalise the statutory guidance. We have been involved in the early adopter process and have had the opportunity to feedback opinions and ideas about content and delivery.

Q: Will my child be taught about LGBT relationships?

A: We believe at Saltash Community School that pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up in. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships.

Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT content during their school years. Teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist can be done in a way that respects everyone.

Secondary schools should cover LGBT content in their RSE teaching. RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law.

Q: What support will schools receive to deliver these subjects well?

A: We are very fortunate at Saltash Community School that RSE is delivered by 2 well trained practitioners within the PSHE department as well as a number of specialist guest speakers and in a small department who are committed to delivering these subjects in an informed way accessing the most up to date resources and ensuring consistency for all of our students. We're working with expert organisations, and other schools and teachers to develop this support.

Q: Where can I find out more information about what will be taught in my child's school?

A: If you want to know more about what will be taught as part of the new subjects please email me at egue@saltashcloud.net or see the PSHE programme on the website, the Dfe have also published [parent guides](#), which explain what the subjects are, and parents' rights.

We believe that these subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum.

Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up. Your child's school will have flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.

Q: How many lessons will students have per week?

A: In order to cover all of the required content PSHE time has increased to one hour per week for all students in Years 7-9 and one a fortnight in Years 10 and 11. Students have PSHE on their timetables and PSHE is usually taught in designated classrooms. In addition to scheduled PSHE lessons, students will also triangulate and reinforce their learning within tutor time and other appropriate lessons as a joined-up approach is vital and important to ensure that the content is lived for our young people.

Q: Will students have missed any of the content due to Covid-19?

A: Where appropriate PSHE work has been delivered during home learning, however we have restructured the curriculum to ensure that all vital/key topics are covered, as we teach a spiral curriculum all topics are covered in every year group and reinforced at a number of points in learning.

Q: How will students be supported when sensitive topics are taught?

A: Every lesson is structured to ensure there is a clear class agreement set including expected behaviour and boundaries as well as support mechanisms for students should topics trigger feelings or worries.

Q: Who should we contact should we wish to discuss an element of RSE?

A: Head of PSHE egue@saltashcloud.net or teacher of PSHE fsamuel@saltashcloud.net.

Q: Will students take any exams in PSHE?

A: No students will not take any formal qualifications within PSHE, however lessons will be vital in supporting students' health and well being and encouraging them to be the best that they can be.

Q: Can I access the materials and resources used to deliver these topics?

A: Yes, there will be information on our school website about delivery methods, in addition parents can ask to see resources either by email or making an appointment at our scheduled parents' surgery, we will also hold parental information events.

Q: Is PSHE included on attainment trackers?

A: Yes we report on attitude to learning but not on attainment.