

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

Policy owner	Equip Education and Support Services
Review cycle	October 2026 - October 2027, or earlier where legislation, guidance or provision changes
Document scope	Alternative provision service / provider

1. Purpose and scope

Equip delivers relationships, sex and health education through its planned PSHE programme for secondary-age pupils. Teaching is age-appropriate, accessible and safeguarding-aware; it supports safe relationships, health, autonomy, informed choices and respect for others. Delivery takes account of mixed KS3/KS4 groups, varied prior learning, SEND and disrupted educational experiences.

2. Curriculum entitlement and content

The planned 2026–27 PSHE programme provides the framework for sequence and progression. It includes healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent and boundaries, respectful communication, sexual health and risk, online relationships, pornography and harmful content where age-appropriate, exploitation and coercion, physical health, emotional wellbeing, drugs and alcohol awareness, equality and seeking help.

Responsive sessions may be added when pupil voice, local risks or safeguarding trends justify them. They supplement rather than displace the mapped core curriculum. Teaching content is reviewed in light of the revised DfE statutory Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education guidance effective September 2026.

3. Teaching approach and safeguarding

Staff use ground rules, factual information, safe examples and a non-judgemental tone. Learners are not asked to disclose personal experiences; staff explain safeguarding reporting boundaries. A disclosure or suspected harm is reported to the DSL promptly and recorded according to the safeguarding handbook.

External materials and visitors are checked for relevance, safeguarding, suitability, accessibility and political impartiality as applicable. Sensitive teaching is adapted to the group, not unnecessarily withheld from pupils with SEND or additional vulnerability.

4. SEND, equality and participation

Materials, vocabulary and discussion approaches are adapted for communication, cognition, sensory needs and emotional regulation. Teaching respects different families and identities and challenges discriminatory stereotypes. Pupils needing individual preparation or follow-up are supported discreetly.

5. Parents, carers and withdrawal requests

Equip will make an overview of RSHE content available to parents/carers and commissioners on request, and respond to concerns respectfully. Where a pupil remains on another school's roll, a request to withdraw from sex education is referred to that school and Equip management to apply the relevant statutory framework. There is not a blanket right to withdraw from relationships or health education.

6. Responsibilities, evidence and review

The Curriculum Lead oversees the programme and curriculum mapping; delivery staff plan lessons and retain proportionate evidence such as work, discussion and pupil voice. The DSL advises on sensitive issues and current safeguarding themes. Provision is evaluated through curriculum QA, coverage, accessible feedback and changing pupil needs.

Linked policies: Curriculum, Safeguarding, SEND, Anti-Bullying, Online Safety and Equality and Diversity.