

RSE POLICY

Pendle Vale College



Document Control:

This document has been approved for operation within:	Pendle Vale College				
Status	Statutory				
Owner	Pendle Vale College				
Date effective from	September 2026	Date of next review	June 2027	Review period	Annually

1. Statutory Framework and Rationale

This policy aligns with the Department for Education's 2025 statutory guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), effective from September 2026.

It is based on:

1. *Education Act 1996 (sections 403–405)*
2. *Education Act 2002 (section 80A)*
3. *Children and Social Work Act 2017*
4. *Equality Act 2010*
- 5.

It also reflects *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)* and Ofsted expectations under *Personal Development*.

This policy was developed through consultation with governors, staff, parents, and students.

2. Intent and Purpose

At Pendle Vale College, RSHE underpins our commitment to safeguarding, wellbeing, and character development.

Our programme equips students with the knowledge, skills, and values to:

6. form positive and healthy relationships,
7. understand consent and respect diversity,
8. maintain physical and mental health, and
9. make safe, informed choices in life and online.

RSHE prepares pupils for life and work in modern Britain, promoting respect, empathy, resilience, and responsible citizenship.

3. Curriculum Intent (Summary of Overview)

Our RSHE curriculum is planned as a progressive, spiral programme from Year 7 to Year 11, integrated across three strands:

Health and Wellbeing

Developing resilience, emotional literacy, self-esteem, physical and mental health awareness.

Relationships and Sex Education

Teaching respect, equality, consent, healthy friendships, and awareness of diverse relationships.

Living in the Wider World

Exploring citizenship, online behaviour, finance, employability, and digital literacy.

RSHE is delivered primarily through timetabled PSHCE lessons with specialist teachers, reinforced by Science, Religious Studies, assemblies, and NHS-led sessions.

Themes include: online safety, body image, respect, diversity, pornography, digital consent, and modern societal issues.

4. Aims and Learning Outcomes

RSHE aims to ensure that pupils:

10. understand the characteristics of healthy and respectful relationships;
11. can recognise, respond to, and report abuse or coercion;
12. understand physical, emotional, and social changes during adolescence;
13. evaluate the influence of social media and popular culture;
14. access reliable information and health services;
15. demonstrate empathy, inclusion, and respect; and
16. develop resilience and emotional literacy.

Learning outcomes align with statutory expectations for: Families, Respectful Relationships, Online and Media, Being Safe, and Health and Wellbeing.

5. Delivery Model

RSHE is delivered through a dedicated PSHCE curriculum taught by trained staff.

Cross-curricular links are embedded within Science (reproductive health) and Religious Studies (values and ethics).

Specialist contributions are provided by NHS professionals and local organisations, following safeguarding and quality-assurance procedures.

Teaching methods include discussion, case studies, reflection activities, and digital media. All staff receive annual training on RSHE, safeguarding, and inclusion to ensure accurate, confident delivery.

6. Inclusion and Equality

Pendle Vale College is committed to inclusion, equality, and representation.

RSHE lessons reflect diversity in family structures, faiths, cultures, sexual orientations, and gender identities.

All teaching complies with the Equality Act 2010 and is age-appropriate, factual, and respectful.

Content is adapted for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to ensure accessibility and participation.

Lessons promote respect, challenge stereotypes, and encourage understanding of all perspectives.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Governors	Approve and review the RSHE policy annually.
Headteacher	ensures statutory compliance and sufficient resources
Assistant Head (PD)	oversees implementation, training, and curriculum quality.
PSHCE Lead	coordinates planning, monitors delivery, and liaises with partners
Staff	deliver lessons following agreed schemes and safeguarding procedures.
Parents	engage with the school's RSHE communication and support learning at home.
Students	participate respectfully, reflect thoughtfully, and apply learning to their lives.

8. Parental Engagement and Right to Withdraw

Pendle Vale College values strong partnerships with parents.

Curriculum outlines are shared termly and all resources are available for review upon request.

Parents may request withdrawal from non-statutory aspects of sex education (those not in the Science curriculum).

Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher, who will discuss the decision and record the outcome.

Students may opt in to receive RSHE content from three terms before their 16th birthday.

9. Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

Assessment focuses on knowledge, understanding, and reflection, not personal experience. Methods include self-assessment, discussion, written reflection, and class feedback.

The PSHCE Lead monitors teaching through planning reviews, lesson observations, and pupil voice. Staff feedback and parental consultation inform curriculum updates.

The Senior Leadership Team and Governors review this policy annually for quality assurance and statutory compliance.

10. Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- 17. Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- 18. Behaviour Policy
- 19. Online Safety Policy
- 20. Equality and Anti-Bullying Policies
- 21. Curriculum Policy
- 22. PSHCE Scheme of Learning

It aligns with *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)* and the school's *Personal Development Framework*.

11. Appendices (Available on Request)

- 23. **Appendix 1:** RSHE Progression Map 2026 (Years 7–11)
- 24. **Appendix 2:** RSHE Parent Overview (A4 summary)
- 25. **Appendix 3:** Staff Training & External Provider Register
- 26. **Appendix 4:** Parental Engagement Procedure

Our RSHE curriculum meets all DfE statutory requirements (2025 framework, effective September 2026).