

WAKEFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

RSHE

At Wakefield Independent School we have created a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated, and where we identify issues and intervene early to better protect our children and young people.

RSHE

What is it? RSHE stands for Relationships, Sex & Health Education. Relationships and health are usually covered in 'PSHE' lessons, in general everyday classroom learning, in assemblies and sometimes in science (e.g. healthy eating). Increasingly, learning about online safety touches on these issues also. Sex education is part of the science curriculum, and part of PSHE too. We have separate policies for Junior and Senior Sex and Relationship Education.

All of these areas are cross-curricular but the Wakefield Independent School Curriculum, RSHE is taught under the umbrella PSHCE/SRE.

What's changed? At Wakefield Independent School, we have consulted and trained on, planned, and implemented our RSHE curriculum. Sex education will still be able to be opted out of, although as now, if this is chosen by parents/carers, they are obliged to meet the Headteacher of the school to discuss the implications of this and ensure that they are aware of the negative effect it could have if a child has a different level of learning in this area from their peers. There is also a safeguarding dimension to be considered. The elements of sex education that are part of the teaching of science cannot be opted out of – these are every child's entitlement under the National Curriculum.

In order to do this, we must assume that sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are happening in our school, even when we have no specific reports. We have put in place a whole-school approach to address such problems that may arise. This includes:

- A carefully sequenced RSHE curriculum, based on the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance, that specifically includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online. This includes time for open discussion of topics that children and young people tell us they find particularly difficult, such as consent and the sending of 'nudes'
- High-quality training for teachers delivering RSHE
- Routine record-keeping and analysis of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, to identify patterns and intervene early to prevent abuse
- A behavioural approach, including sanctions when appropriate, to reinforce a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are not tolerated

- Working closely with LSPs in our area so we are aware of the range of support available to children and young people who are victims or who perpetrate harmful sexual behaviour
- Support for designated safeguarding leads (DSLs), such as protected time in timetables to engage with LSPs
- Training to ensure that all staff (and governors, where relevant) are able to:
 - better understand the definitions of sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online sexual abuse
 - identify early signs of peer-on-peer sexual abuse
 - consistently uphold standards in their responses to sexual harassment and online sexual abuse