

DARUL ULOOM

RSE POLICY

September 2024



Ratified by the Trustee: 30 August 2024

Signed by the Trustee: 30 August 2024

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Contents

Overview	3
Aims	3
Legal position of Sex and Relationships as a curricular requirement	3
Partnering Organisations	4
RSE Provisions at DUIHS	4
Range of Topics covered in relation to RSE	4
Virtue of Sensitivity.....	4
Addressing Parental Concern	4

Overview

DUIHS acknowledges the importance of understanding sex and relationships from a responsible perspective at an early age, given the access and openness made available in contemporary society through technological development and growing independence. From a safeguarding and wellbeing perspective, the school recognises its obligation to impart a whole understanding in developing emotional and physical, spiritual, moral, social and cultural in readiness for opportunities, experiences and responsibilities that are due in adult life.

Aims

The core aim of the RSE provisions within the school is to nurture pupils towards growing a desire for healthy, beneficial, loving and reward relationships, whilst refraining from damaging ones. In supplement, pupils will become more aware of their bodies, understanding the changes they undergo through puberty, their sexual health and emotional stability. All curriculum and activity adhering to the plans regarding RSE will do so with respect to the Islamic ethos, ensuring sensitivities are effectively measured and considered. The following is a non-exhaustive list of aims as per the RSE curriculum. A more expansive explanation of topics can be found in the *Statutory Guidance* for RSE (Secondary) – Updates of 2021:

- To support personal, social and emotional development of its pupils
- To help pupils name and become aware of their bodies, the changes and functions of the different parts and organs
- To gradually help pupils become familiar with appropriate terminology in relation to issues of sex and relationships
- To build confidence in pupils when discussing, listening or thinking about relationships and associated emotions
- To help pupils be confident and righteous in asserting their rights and choices as free-willed individuals
- To guide pupils to be aware of the rights and choices of others in respect to relationships
- To guide pupils to understand about pressures and dangers associated with unhealthy relationships
- To educate pupils in understanding the parameters of healthy and caring relations
- To deliver the RSE curriculum in a free, open, trusting and Islamic manner
- To educate pupils in valuing relationships – particularly family members
- To guide pupils to value moral considerations
- To guide pupils to manage emotions confidently and sensitively
- To help grow respect and empathy towards themselves and others
- To teach pupils how to manage conflict
- To guide pupils in understanding and avoiding what entails abuse and exploitation
- To guide pupils towards understanding the impacts and features of the body and sexual interactions including menstruation, STI and contraception
- To build confidence within pupils to be able to ask questions and relieve their curiosities in matters of sex and relationships

Legal position of Sex and Relationships as a curricular requirement

As dictated in DfE's guidance, *Relationships and sex education (RSE) (2019: updated 2021) and health education*, it is compulsory upon schools to impart RSE since September 2020, having all documentation and preparations to deliver the education ready by no later than the summer term of 2021. Its statutory requirement and guidance are ratified under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996. However, with the particulars of these sections not applying directly to independent schools, DUIHS is subject to the *The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014* (Gov). As such the school maintains the right, under the dictation of Part 1: Quality of education provided, section 2(2)(d), to impart RSE in light of, and with its guidance from, its Islamic Ethos.

Partnering Organisations

To standardise the process of development and to enable the systemisation of RSE as a formal, official and accredited syllabus, DUIHS has partnered with the Association of Muslim Schools (AMS). AMS' RSE syllabus effectively covers all matters pertaining to the needs dictated in DfE's RSE guidance and navigates respectively around matters that would contradict or offend the sensitivities of an Islamic system, all whilst remaining adherent to the Equality Act (2010).

RSE Provisions at DUIHS

The school aims to impart the RSE curriculum through as many mediums as possible. This includes the more obvious avenues such as reproduction, pregnancy and sexual relationships taught through science in biology, or the conventional aspects of such topics in PSHE. It also includes application in less obvious affiliations such as English during which pupils may learn and analyse abusive relationships, and PE during which they may become more of their hormonal developments and energy surges (see curriculum (and audit) for further information). As of 2021/2022 academic year, PHSE is to be delivered across 5-years.

Range of Topics covered in relation to RSE

The following is a non-exhaustive list of the umbrella topics covered within the DUIHS curricula:

- Puberty / Periods
- Puberty and Cleanliness
- FGM / Circumcision
- Marriage and Divorce
- Online / Media Relationships – inc. Social Networks
- Pornography
- Forced Marriages
- Healthy (and halaal) relationships
- Sexual Relationships and Reproduction
- Reproduction: Babies and Pregnancy
- Law and Protection against Sexual Harassment
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Infections
- Sanctity of Life: Euthanasia and Abortion
- Gender-specific roles and rights – and equality

Virtue of Sensitivity

DUIHS virtues to the RSE curriculum with respect to the rights and sensitivities revolving around it including age groups, maturity, thresholds of religious views and naivety. As such, the topics will be taught according to need and maturity. For instance, DUIHS recognises how, with the broadness of access to internet mediums, unsanctioned friendships and pornography are common with society, and will thus educate on this matter with a *safeguarding* tone. The school does, however, recognise the risks of exposing such topics and/or content to younger individuals and as such virtues to do so in a considerate manner. This may, for example, include selective vocabulary calling *pornography* 'inappropriate and revealing images of men and women' in year 7 and 8 and 'indecent exposure' in year 9. DUIHS takes into consideration safeguarding and child protection matters, ensuring the deliverance of RSE is functional, necessary and sensitive to the needs and confidences of pupils.

Addressing Parental Concern

Prior to implementing the curriculum, DUIHS hosted three seminars, during which parents offered their concerns and reservations regarding the delivery of RSE. As such, the curriculum build, the partnering with AMS and this policy were derived with respect and consideration to these views. Going forward, appreciating anxieties that may yet exist regarding the policy and its elements, the school endeavours to do the following as much as possible:

- Work with parents in partnership, respecting their rights as key components in the pupils' development in terms of sex and relationships
- Release curriculums in due course to allow parents insight into delivery of materials pertaining to RSE, granting ample opportunity to clarify concerns and reservations

- Respect parents' rights to have their children withdrawn from studies pertaining to RSE where it is imparted external to the school's syllabi and curricula
- Where necessary, parents will be informed of external agencies – particularly when they are sought in addition to calendared activities
- Provide a copy of the RSE policy and any available documents pertaining to it upon request – including the PSHE curriculum and any other curriculum imparting any form of RSE

To be read in line with:

1. Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education (2019) (Gov)
2. Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) (Secondary) Revisions September 2021
3. Keeping Children Safe in Education Proposed Revisions September 2021
4. DU Policies: Safeguarding, Anti-bullying, Health and Safety and Equal Opportunities, Behaviour
5. DUIHS Schemes/Overviews
6. The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (Gov)
7. AMS secondary curriculum