



RSE and PSHE Curriculum Rationale

At Edgewood Academy, our bespoke RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) curriculum is intentionally designed to meet the unique needs of our primary-aged students with complex SEND, aged 7 to 14 years. Recognising that many pupils have experienced disrupted education and gaps due to previous unsuitable settings or trauma, we have developed self-designed National Curriculum Objectives tailored specifically for vulnerable learners. This approach is deeply therapeutic, integrating a 1:1 iPad learning environment to personalise learning and support emotional regulation, fostering holistic development.

Our curriculum aligns with the statutory National Curriculum requirements by covering essential knowledge and skills around relationships, health, wellbeing, and personal development. However, it goes beyond this by embedding therapeutic strategies and technology use to ensure accessibility, engagement, and relevance for all pupils. This bespoke curriculum bridges missed learning opportunities and supports smooth transition phases, helping pupils to reconnect with their education and build foundational skills for lifelong wellbeing.

The curriculum is aspirational in setting high expectations for every student to develop self-awareness, emotional intelligence, social skills, and resilience. It equips pupils with critical life skills such as communication, empathy, decision-making, and digital literacy, preparing them to thrive socially and emotionally in their communities and future settings. Importantly, the curriculum is flexible, allowing for personalised pathways that reflect each pupil's EHCP goals, emotional needs, and developmental stage.

This rationale integrates Edgewood Academy's therapeutic ethos and innovative use of technology, ensuring that RSE and PSHE are not only about knowledge acquisition but also about healing, confidence-building, and empowerment. It directly supports our school improvement priorities by enhancing teaching quality through therapeutic and technology integration, improving student wellbeing, and fostering inclusion.



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Whole School Aims

The RSE and PSHE curriculum is intrinsically linked to Edgewood Academy's vision of being "**SAFE, SUPPORTED, INSPIRED.**" It supports our core aims by:

- **Safe to Grow:** Creating a secure learning environment where pupils feel emotionally safe to explore sensitive topics, develop trust, and build self-regulation skills.
- **Inspired to Innovate:** Using technology creatively to engage pupils in meaningful learning experiences that foster curiosity and confidence.
- **Connected to Community:** Encouraging pupils to understand and respect themselves and others, building social awareness and empathy that strengthens community ties.
- **Rooted in Excellence:** Delivering a high-quality, personalised curriculum that challenges pupils to make meaningful progress in their personal and social development at their own pace.

By nurturing individuality and promoting emotional wellbeing, the curriculum helps pupils unlock their potential and prepares them for successful reintegration or progression, consistent with our school's ethos of nurturing confident, capable learners ready for a rapidly changing world.

Subject Vision

The purpose of teaching RSE and PSHE at Edgewood Academy is to empower vulnerable pupils to understand themselves and others, develop healthy relationships, and acquire skills that support emotional resilience and personal wellbeing. Our intent is for every pupil to:

- Develop self-awareness and emotional regulation strategies grounded in therapeutic principles.
- Build positive relationships based on respect, empathy, and communication.
- Understand physical, emotional, and social changes appropriate to their developmental stage.



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- Gain practical skills to keep themselves safe, healthy, and confident in a digital and real-world context.
- Bridge gaps caused by previous disrupted education and trauma, enabling smoother transitions and reintegration.

This vision aligns with our improvement priorities by embedding therapeutic approaches and technology to personalise learning, supporting early identification of barriers, and enhancing pupil outcomes in wellbeing and social development.

Communication with Stakeholders

To ensure successful implementation and transparency, Edgewood Academy will:

- **Engage Parents and Carers:** Provide clear, accessible information about the curriculum content and its therapeutic approach through workshops, newsletters, and a parent portal that includes digital access to resources.
- **Collaborate with Multi-Agency Partners:** Share curriculum rationale and progress data with Midlands Psychology and other local SEND services to ensure a coherent approach to pupil wellbeing and development.
- **Staff Training and Reflection:** Maintain ongoing CPD for staff to embed therapeutic and technological strategies effectively in RSE and PSHE teaching.
- **Student Voice:** Incorporate pupil feedback mechanisms to adapt and personalise learning experiences continually.
- **Governance Oversight:** Keep governors informed about curriculum developments and impact to support strategic leadership.

This multi-channel communication strategy respects the school's context, promotes trust and partnership with families, and aligns with OFSTED's focus on safeguarding, inclusion, and personal development.

Addressing Inspection Feedback



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Although the previous OFSTED inspection provided no specific feedback or grades, this curriculum rationale proactively addresses potential areas for improvement by:

- **Providing a Bespoke, Therapeutic Curriculum:** Meeting the complex needs of vulnerable pupils who may have missed key learning, thus addressing potential gaps in provision.
- **Integrating Technology and Therapeutic Practice:** Enhancing engagement and personalised learning, which supports improved outcomes in wellbeing and academic progress.
- **Aligning with SEND and Inclusion Best Practice:** Ensuring leadership and teaching reflect Stoke-on-Trent's SEND strategy and the latest OFSTED framework priorities.
- **Fostering Strong Partnerships:** Engaging families and multi-agency partners to create a holistic support network for pupils.

This comprehensive approach strengthens Edgewood Academy's readiness for future inspections under the 2025 OFSTED framework, demonstrating clear intent, implementation, and impact in RSE and PSHE provision.