



# Relationship and Sex Education Policy



## Sponsorship & Review

### 1 Sponsor

Assistant Vice Principal - Personal Development, Culture and Ethos

### 2 Reviewed

April 2026

### 3 Revised

April 2028

#### 1. Introduction

Charlton School is committed to providing a high-quality, evidence-based, inclusive RSHE curriculum that promotes safe, respectful and healthy relationships, supports students to navigate the modern world, and contributes to our wider safeguarding culture. This policy reflects:

- The **updated statutory RSHE guidance published July 2025** and applicable ahead of full implementation in September 2026, which schools may adopt early [[gov.uk](#)]
- The **DfE statutory guidance document for introduction 1 September 2026** [[assets.pub...ice.gov.uk](#)]
- The Government's July 2025 strengthened expectations around **misogyny, online harms, pornography, violence against women and girls (VAWG), suicide prevention, emerging AI/tech-based risks**, and personal safety [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)], [[questions-...liament.uk](#)]
- The legal expectation that RSHE is taught in a safeguarding-centred, age-appropriate manner with parental transparency and consultation [[questions-...liament.uk](#)], [[farrer.co.uk](#)]
- Charlton School's **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 2025–26**, including local TWSP requirements, DSL duties, child-on-child abuse, exploitation risks, Prevent, mental health and information-sharing expectations [[gov.uk](#)]

RSHE is delivered as part of the wider **Personal Development curriculum**, grounded in our values of **Respect, Responsibility and Resilience**, and supported by specialist curriculum leaders for PSHE/RSE, Emotional Health and Wellbeing, Careers, and SMSC.

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#### 2. Statutory and Legal Framework

This policy is compliant with:

- **Education Act 2002 (Section 80A)** and **Education Act 1996 (Section 403)**
- **Children and Social Work Act 2017**
- **RSHE Statutory Guidance (DfE, July 2025)** [[gov.uk](#)]
- **Updated RSHE curriculum content requirements for implementation Sept 2026** [[assets.pub...ice.gov.uk](#)]
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025**
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023**
- Local safeguarding arrangements: **Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership (TWSP)** [[gov.uk](#)]

- **Equality Act 2010** (including Protected Characteristics)
- **Prevent Duty (Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015)**

RSHE is statutory for **all students in secondary education**, except for parents' limited right to request withdrawal from the **non-statutory elements of Sex Education**.

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### 3. Aims of RSHE at Charlton School

Our RSHE curriculum aims to:

#### 3.1 Promote healthy, respectful relationships

- Address trust, respect, honesty, kindness and boundaries
- Integrate updated guidance on **preventing misogyny, addressing harmful online ideologies, and challenging VAWG-related behaviours** [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)], [[questions-...liament.uk](#)]

#### 3.2 Safeguard students

RSHE is a key part of our prevention framework and will now explicitly include:

- **Online harms:** deepfakes, toxic influencers, AI-facilitated abuse [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)]
- **Sexual ethics** beyond consent to include kindness, dignity and respect in all relationships [[questions-...liament.uk](#)]
- **Pornography and its distorting impact on healthy relationships** [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)]
- **Suicide prevention content delivered safely**, as required in July 2025 guidance [[questions-...liament.uk](#)]
- **Personal safety in public spaces, road and water safety** (introduced in 2025 guidance) [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)]

#### 3.3 Support physical, mental and emotional wellbeing

- Teaching about grief, loss, loneliness and mental health is strengthened in updated guidance [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)]
- RSHE contributes directly to Charlton's emotional health pathways, Early Help processes, and DSL supervision structure [[gov.uk](#)]

#### 3.4 Promote inclusion and equality

- The 2025 guidance emphasises respectful understanding of diverse family structures, gender identity exploration, and non-stigmatising teaching approaches [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)]
  - Fully aligned with our Equality Duty and anti-bullying/anti-violence work.
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### 4. Curriculum Delivery

RSHE is taught within the **Personal Development curriculum**, supported by:

- External providers such as **Loudmouth Theatre Company**, West Mercia Police, NHS partners, WMRSASC, and others
- **Annual Curriculum Enhancement Days** enabling contextual safeguarding responses

The curriculum follows the **Shropshire Respect Yourself Programme**, aligned to national criteria and used by local transition partners.

#### 4.1 Key changes incorporated from 2025 RSHE guidance

The updated curriculum now includes:

- Explicit teaching on **misogyny, the mansphere, and online radicalisation of boys** (PSHE Association summary) [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)]
- Risks from **AI-generated sexual imagery, online impersonation and deepfakes** [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)]
- Enhanced education on **pornography, digital consent, and image-based abuse**
- **Personal safety curriculum** (roads, railways, water safety, unsafe public spaces) newly required in 2025 guidance [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](#)]
- **Positive masculinity / femininity** and non-stigmatising approaches to gender [[questions-...liament.uk](#)]
- Teaching on **sexual ethics**, not just consent, as mandated by updated guidance [[questions-...liament.uk](#)]
- **Suicide prevention education**, delivered safely with staff trained appropriately (completed 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025) [[questions-...liament.uk](#)]

These elements are embedded into Years 7–11 through sequenced modules and supported by our external partners.

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## 5. Safeguarding Integration

RSHE at Charlton is inseparable from safeguarding. The DSL ensures all content aligns with:

### 5.1 Local Safeguarding Requirements

Your 2025–26 Safeguarding Policy identifies critical local contextual risks including:

- **Child-on-Child Abuse**, including HSB, sexual harassment, online abuse [[gov.uk](#)]
- **CSE/CCE and county lines** [[gov.uk](#)]
- **Domestic abuse**, Operation Encompass notifications
- **Mental health concerns** as indicators of harm
- **Prevent and radicalisation risks**
- **TWSP threshold guidance, Early Help pathways and exploitation protocols**

All RSHE lessons incorporate preventative education required under these frameworks.

### 5.2 Reporting & Disclosures

Students are taught:

- How to seek help
- How to report concerns
- How to recognise unsafe or abusive relationships
- How to understand digital risks and manage unsafe online contact

Staff follow **KCSIE 2025**, TWSP and school safeguarding procedures for any RSHE-related disclosure.

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## 6. Working with Parents and Carers

In line with the July 2025 guidance:

- Schools must provide **transparency around RSHE curriculum content** and share resources upon request [[questions-...liament.uk](#)]
- Parents retain the right to request withdrawal from **non-statutory sex education**

- Parental consultation is required when reviewing RSHE policy and curriculum design [[farrer.co.uk](http://farrer.co.uk)]

Charlton School publishes this policy and curriculum maps on the school website and communicates RSHE topics via letters, email, and Family Hub events.

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## 7. Roles and Responsibilities

### 7.1 Governing Board

- Ensures compliance with statutory RSHE guidance and safeguarding legislation
- Approves the RSHE policy and monitors impact [[farrer.co.uk](http://farrer.co.uk)]

### 7.2 Principal

- Ensures consistent and high-quality delivery
- Manages parental withdrawal requests

### 7.3 DSL (Assistant Vice Principal – Safeguarding and Safeguarding Strategy)

- Ensures RSHE integrates fully with safeguarding systems
- Ensures compliance with KCSIE 2025 and local TWSP requirements [[gov.uk](http://gov.uk)]
- Oversees staff training on sensitive topics e.g. suicide prevention, harmful sexual behaviour, online harms

### 7.4 Staff

- Deliver RSHE in a safe, trauma-informed manner
  - Uphold ground rules
  - Manage difficult questions safely
  - Report any safeguarding concerns immediately
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## 8. Managing Difficult Questions & Safe Learning Environments

Reflecting the July 2025 guidance:

- Teachers must be supported to manage sensitive or challenging student questions confidently and safely [[pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk](http://pshe-assoc...ion.org.uk)]
  - Lessons must be age-appropriate, evidence-based, and inclusive
  - Classrooms require clear ground rules to prevent misinformation and maintain emotional safety
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## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

RSHE effectiveness is evaluated through:

- Student feedback
- Learning walks and lesson audits
- Assessment overviews
- Safeguarding data patterns (e.g., HSB reports, online safety incidents)

- DSL monitoring of trends and exploitation indicators
- Governing Board review every two years

This policy will be reviewed **biannually** and earlier if statutory guidance changes.

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## **10. Appendices**

### **Appendix A – Parental Withdrawal Form**

(For non-statutory sex education elements only.)

## 1. Introduction