



Education & Youth

Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy 2022

Model Policy for Primary Schools / Special Schools & PRU's

Areas highlighted in grey have been personalised, had further detail added or otherwise been amended from the model policy to reflect the context at Ysgol Pen Coch.

Flintshire model RSE policy first implemented	September 2022
Date of last amendment	
Version	1
Date of next review	2024
Policy owner for review	Learning Advisor – Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding

School	Ysgol Pen Coch
Date policy approved	This policy was approved by the School's Governing Body on:
Review frequency	This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the head teacher, staff and governors, or if any amendments occur in legislation or in consideration of changes in working practices which may stem from incidents or allegations.
Review date	February 2027
Chair of Governors Declaration	
Head teacher Declaration	

Accessible Formats

This policy is available in English and Welsh in Microsoft Word and pdf formats in Arial font size 12 as standard. Large print copies can be made available. To request a copy of this document in an accessible format contact 01352 792730 or pcmail@hwbcymru.net.

This policy is based in large part on the Flintshire model RSE policy. Various sections have been adapted to reflect the context of Ysgol Pen Coch. The Flintshire model policy is also available in large print, Braille, BSL DVD, easy-read, audio and electronic formats, and other languages can be made available upon request. Ysgol Pen Coch will assist you in identifying and understanding those sections that have been adapted.

1. Statement by the Governing Body

By adopting this policy, the governing body of Ysgol Pen Coch school recognises its responsibility for ensuring the policy is implemented effectively, that Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is adequately resourced, staffed and delivered using a cross-curricular approach and ensures that the school fulfils its legal obligations.

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body every 3 years to ensure the policy is in alignment with the latest Welsh Government guidance and statutory regulations.

2. Introduction

RSE has a positive and empowering role in learners' education and plays a vital role in supporting learners to form and maintain a range of relationships, all based on mutual trust and respect which is the foundation of RSE. These relationships are critical to the development of emotional well-being, resilience and empathy. An understanding of sexuality with an emphasis on rights, health, equality and equity empowers learners to understand themselves, take responsibility for their own decisions and behaviours, and form relationships that are fully inclusive, reflecting diversity and promoting respect.

Teaching and learning within Ysgol Pen Coch's RSE curriculum addresses the mandatory elements outlined within the Welsh Government's RSE Code, adapted to account for the cognitive and communicative abilities of learners.

Ysgol Pen Coch has therefore planned and developed a comprehensive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate whole school teaching and learning programme for RSE which conforms with the Code. This policy details our whole school approach to RSE.

Our RSE will support learners with additional learning needs to develop the knowledge, skills and values to understand how relationships and sexuality shape their own lives and the lives of others. Learners will be equipped and empowered to seek support on issues relating to RSE and insofar as they are able to advocate for themselves and others.

The school will ensure that RSE is embedded in the school's values, rights and moral framework e.g. by showing respect for all learners, staff and the wider community, by celebrating differences, building healthy relationships and inclusion of sexual diversity.

This policy encompasses Ysgol Pen Coch's approach to RSE. The head teacher has arranged for it to be written in consultation with learners, parents and staff. It has been ratified by the governing body.

This policy is in alignment with the latest Guidance from Welsh Government:

- [Curriculum for Wales Guidance](#)
- [The Curriculum for Wales – RSE Code, 2022](#)
- [Keeping Learners Safe](#)

UK Government:

- [Equality Act 2010](#)

This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies, in particular but not limited to Safeguarding, Behaviour, ICT Acceptable Use and Bullying.

3. Right to Withdraw

RSE is a mandatory requirement in the Curriculum for Wales 2022 for all learners from age 3 to 16 years, and there is no parental right to withdraw learners from any part of RSE.

4. Curriculum Design

Ysgol Pen Coch's RSE curriculum will be delivered as part of cross-curricular themes, including targeted standalone sessions as required, and it will be interlinked within all Areas of Learning and Experience as appropriate. This will allow learners to make connections between their learning in RSE and the wider curriculum, understanding historical, cultural, geographic, physical, political, social and technological perspectives and influences on RSE issues.

The mandatory content of the RSE Code is set within three broad and interlinked learning strands, namely:

1. Relationships and identity - this strand focuses on:

- the range of relationships that human beings have throughout their lives
- how identity can be shaped by our relationships and sexuality
- the importance of human rights in securing healthy, safe and fulfilling relationships in an inclusive society.

2. Sexual health and well-being - this strand focuses on:

- learning about how living things grow, reproduce and have a life cycle
- developing an understanding of the human body, including people's feelings about their bodies and how these can be represented
- the health issues related to relationships and sexuality
- an understanding of how sexuality and sexual health affects our well-being.

3. Empowerment, safety and respect - this strand focuses on:

- learners' rights to safety and protection and freedom from harm and discrimination
- how and where to seek information, help and support
- how to support and advocate for the rights, fair treatment and respect of all.

The learning strands are set in three broad developmental phases as follows:

- Phase 1: from age 3
- Phase 2: from age 7
- Phase 3: from age 11

Our RSE Lead teachers are Bethan Ellis and Julian Lewis. The RSE Leads will communicate with all primary and secondary RSE cluster schools to ensure effective progression from Phase 1, 2 and 3 that is developmentally appropriate for all our learners.

The planning, teaching, evaluating and monitoring of Ysgol Pen Coch's RSE programme is undertaken by teachers and the RSE Leads.

To ensure that the RSE curriculum is developmentally appropriate we consider a range of factors including learners':

- additional learning needs,
- age, knowledge and maturity,
- social, physical, emotional, cognitive and communicative development and needs and
- any other relevant individual need.

We consider how best to meet the needs of learners whose additional needs means that their understanding of sexual health and well-being may not match their chronological age. All Ysgol Pen Coch staff are aware of the school's approach to RSE when working with learners with additional learning needs, and will provide all necessary assistance to other professionals and people working on RSE with our learners.

5. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

At Ysgol Pen Coch we discuss RSE in the context of children's rights as protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The rights below underpin and shape our RSE curriculum and school policy:

- non-discrimination (Article 2)
- be heard and involved in decision-making (Article 12)
- freedom of expression (Article 13)
- follow your own religion (Article 14)
- have privacy (Article 16)
- access information to make informed decisions (Article 17)
- not be harmed and should be looked after and kept safe (Article 19)
- experience the highest attainable health, access to health facilities, and preventative health care (Article 24)
- education that prepares children to understand others (Article 29)
- protection from sexual abuse and exploitation (Article 34)
- get special help if they have been abused (Article 39)

Everyone who works with children at Ysgol Pen Coch should always do what is best for each learner, as part of the school's RSE curriculum.

6. Consultation with Learners

In order to support learners to realise the four purposes within the Curriculum for Wales, learner voice is central in developing our RSE curriculum. However learners at Ysgol Pen Coch all have severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties or complex needs. All learners' contributions to the development and delivery of appropriate RSE in school is valued, whether that be by children who can advocate for themselves or by staff and parents interpreting the input from those learners whose cognitive and communicative abilities preclude clear, discrete communication on the matter. Ysgol Pen Coch will make every effort to involve learners meaningfully in the co-production of RSE in school in order to ensure that pedagogy, curriculum coverage, resources and partnership

with outside agencies are used are relevant, developmentally appropriate, inclusive and sensitive to learners' needs.

7. RSE Provision

Given the broad and idiosyncratic needs and learning styles of learners at Ysgol Pen Coch it is inappropriate to set out a prescriptive RSE curriculum. RSE will be taught through cross curricular themes. Teachers will ensure in their RSE planning that all five What Matters statements of the Health and Wellbeing AoLE of the Welsh Curriculum will be addressed.

Teachers will be guided in their planning and delivery of RSE by the RSE coverage document produced by the Flintshire ALN RSE Cluster, which has been produced to reflect the fact that learners at specialist schools will often be working at lower developmental levels than those envisaged in the RSE Code. The coverage document sets out what RSE learning may look like for learners working at developmental stages from birth and on into the Phases outlined in the RSE Code (see Appendix A). This document is available from the school: 01352 792730 or pcmail@hwbcymru.net

8. Safe Learning Environment

Ysgol Pen Coch will ensure a safe learning environment for teachers, staff and learners by establishing and agreeing to the school's class agreements/rules. The class agreements are noted within the whole school mapping schemes of work document.

Learners will be made aware of confidentiality matters and that any safeguarding disclosures will not be kept and will be shared in accordance with our school's safeguarding procedures.

Within our RSE provision learners will be informed of appropriate health and wellbeing support services and how to access them.

Learners' questions will be addressed sensitively and in a developmentally appropriate manner. Ysgol Pen Coch views learner questioning as a positive sign that they are engaged with what is being taught and feel able to express natural curiosities about themselves, their bodies and relationships with others. Staff will not be expected to answer all questions if they believe some to be inappropriate. They will not be expected to answer any personal questions about themselves and they will not ask learners direct personal questions that could make either party vulnerable. Where a learner has asked a question that challenges appropriate boundaries the staff members involved must seek advice from colleagues, including whether it is appropriate or indeed necessary to seek advice from that learner's parents. In all cases the school's safeguarding and child protection policies apply.

9. Period Dignity

Ysgol Pen Coch supports the Welsh Government Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan (draft published for consultation Oct 2021), which aims to end the stigma and shame associated with periods.

The school will support the plan by ensuring the following:

- provision of free period products, including where possible environmentally friendly resources,
- a robust RSE curriculum that covers the menstrual cycle and periods,
- a safe and suitable environment for applying/changing period related products,
- provision of sanitary bins in learner toilets to support the safe and environmental disposal of products, and
- clear communication to learners and parents/carers informing them of the available free products on site, and how they can access them.

10. Working with Specialist External Agencies

In order to enhance and enrich our RSE provision, teaching may occasionally be supported by external agencies eg: BCUHB school nurse or learning disability nurses, Spectrum Hafan Cymru, NSPCC, other relevant health professionals.

These agencies will be carefully selected and the RSE Leads will ensure:

- they have been made aware of the additional learning needs of the school's learners,
- they have been provided with relevant advice and planning support to deliver appropriate sessions for such learners,
- all resources and presentations the agency proposes to use are suitable,
- they will have the support of school staff during any lesson or activity they will be leading,
- their contribution coincides with the aims and objectives of the curriculum,
- the validity of their Disclosure and Barring Service status, and
- they work/are registered with a reputable organisation/charity.

11. Staff Professional Development

Ysgol Pen Coch recognises that professional learning is a key requirement to enable staff to deliver high-quality RSE. The school will endeavour to provide all classroom based staff with appropriate RSE training to ensure delivery of the RSE curriculum is effective, includes cross curricular elements, is developmentally appropriate and meets the needs of learners. The RSE Leads will support all teachers to access professional learning opportunities which will develop their confidence, knowledge and skills in RSE.

12. Partnerships with Parents / Carers and Local Community

Ysgol Pen Coch recognises that the support of parents/carers is crucial to the success of the RSE programme. The school therefore provides information about what is delivered and enables parents/carers to comment on policy and practice through feedback opportunities, eg: questionnaires. The RSE policy is available to view at www.ysgolpencoch.org.

Parents/carers are welcome to make arrangements to visit the school if they wish to view and discuss the materials and resources used in RSE lessons.

13. Safeguarding and Confidentiality

At Ysgol Pen Coch all staff follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2022. The Designated Safeguarding Person at our school is Noel Fitzgerald, or in his absence Deb McGilloway or Julian Lewis.

The school's RSE curriculum supports learners insofar as they are able to be able to build their knowledge and understanding of how to recognise harmful sexual behaviours, discrimination, abusive relationships, and violence and develop an understanding of consent. Learners may disclose information to school staff that cannot remain confidential. When this occurs, our staff will follow the guidelines below:

- remind learners that staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality,
- inform learners first if staff are going to break confidentiality,
- where appropriate, encourage learners to talk about any worries and concerns they have with parents/carers,
- ensure learners are supported adequately by an appropriate member of staff, and
- always follow the school's Safeguarding Policy if there are child protection concerns.

14. Equality and Diversity

As an employer and provider of services Ysgol Pen Coch will not unlawfully discriminate on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, or on the grounds of Welsh language.

All learners, their parents/carers, volunteers, staff and school governors are valued and will be treated with dignity and respect. Ysgol Pen Coch will not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

In order to make sensitive and well informed professional judgments about a learner's needs and a parent's/carer's capacity to respond to their child's needs, it is important that school staff are sensitive to differing family patterns, and lifestyles and to child rearing patterns that vary across different racial, ethnic and cultural groups.

Ysgol Pen Coch will work across the school community to ensure the commitment to equality and fairness is shared and take steps to ensure that school is accessible, welcoming and inclusive.

15. Monitoring and Evaluation

15.1 This Policy has been approved by the Governors and is available for use to all Staff and supply staff at the School, and to members of the public at www.ysgolpencoch.org.

15.2 The Policy will be reviewed by the Head every 3 years following the date set out in the Policy, or at such other times that the Governors or Head deem necessary, or by or Flintshire County Council. The Policy will be reviewed in light of any statutory frameworks or guidance in place that pertain to schools in Wales and sector best practice current at the time.

15.3 During the review cycle where appropriate learners should be given the opportunity to comment and give feedback on this policy. Likewise parents/carers will be given the opportunity to comment and give feedback on this policy.

15.4 Following any review and irrespective of whether any changes are made, the Policy must be ratified by the Governors.

15.5 Historic versions of the Policy should be archived but remain readily available for reference as required.

Signed: (RSE Lead) **Date:**

Signed: (Head Teacher) **Date:**

Signed: (Chair of Governors) **Date:**

Date of next review: February 2027

RSE Policy Appendix A

RSE Coverage

document being drafted at February 2024

RSE Appendix B

References

[Ceredigion Schools RSE Policy 2022](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience, Curriculum for Wales](#)

[Curriculum for Wales – RSE Code, 2022](#)

[Equality Act 2010 guidance](#)

Gwent Healthy Schools: Gwent RSE Model Policy 2022 DRAFT

[Keeping Learners Safe](#)

Teach Health 4 Kids: Exemplar Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy for Primary Schools (2022)

[Wales Safeguarding Procedures \(2022\)](#)

[Welsh Government Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan \(2021 consultation\)](#)