








# Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy



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## Introduction

RSE is a positive and protective part of the Curriculum for Wales. It plays a central role in supporting learners' rights to enjoy fulfilling, healthy and safe relationships throughout their lives. RSE is also a key part of our safeguarding role at Ysgol Griffith Jones

Central to the Curriculum for Wales is an aspiration for every child and young person to achieve the four [purposes](#) of the curriculum. A rights and equity based RSE curriculum helps ensure that all learners can develop an understanding of how people's faith, beliefs, human rights and cultures are related to all aspects of RSE and how these rights can contribute to the freedom, dignity, well-being and safety of all people. Therefore, within Ysgol Griffith Jones, we will discuss RSE in the context of the Rights protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

RSE at Ysgol Griffith Jones will support learners to develop the knowledge, skills and values to understand how relationships and sexuality shape their lives as well as the lives of others. Learners will be equipped and empowered to seek support on issues relating to RSE and to advocate for self and others.

Within the Curriculum for Wales, Welsh Government have legislated that RSE is a mandatory requirement for all learners from age 3 to 16 ("[the Act](#)"). This means that all learners must receive this education and that there is no right for parents/ carers to withdraw their children from RSE.

This policy has been written in accordance with the Curriculum and Assessment (2021) Act; link [here](#).

## Developmentally appropriate RSE

The Act requires that the RSE provided must be developmentally appropriate for learners. Therefore, schools and settings must take account of a range of factors such as the learners age, knowledge and maturity and any additional learning needs. RSE at Ysgol Griffith Jones will be developmentally appropriate for each learner. The age of learners should be one of the criteria by which practitioners decide upon the appropriateness of content; however, there will be other factors they will need to consider when planning provision. Factors such as the physical and mental and emotional development of learners should also be taken into account. This is essential to ensuring learners are kept safe from information for which they are not sufficiently mature to process. This, however, should not be a reason for not providing children and young people with the essential information they need as they develop physically, mentally and emotionally; developmentally appropriate RSE requires the coverage of subjects that are integral to learners' development. For example, issues which may affect some younger learners, such as puberty and menstruation, should be engaged with sensitively and before the onset of physiological changes. We will also consider how appropriate support is provided through a whole school approach such as, in the case of puberty, ensuring that learners have access to sanitary products.

## Children's Rights

Learning in RSE should highlight the right to:

### Protection of the body

- Every child has a right to have their body respected and treated gently.
- No child should have their body hurt by anyone.
- A child's private parts are private.

### To kindness

- Every child has the right to be valued and treated with kindness.
- Every child has the right to be greeted and related to warmly.
- No child should be hurt with cruel words.
- If a child is doing something an adult thinks is wrong, the child has the right to be told this in a gentle, non-frightening way.

### To respect and acknowledgement

- Every child has the right to be respected.
- Every child has the right for adults at home and school to know what matters to him or her.
- Every child has the right for adults at home and school to know what makes him or her feel happy and unhappy.
- No child should be laughed at, humiliated or made to feel ashamed.
- Every child has the right to say when they feel they have been shamed.

### To suitable learning

- Every child has the right to be challenged in their learning, but never to be given work that makes them feel they are not good enough.
- Every child has the right to have adults be curious about their interests and what they want to learn more about.
- Every child has a right to help from teachers in school, if something at home or elsewhere is stopping them from learning.

### To feel safe and not be frightened

- Every child has the right to feel safe at home, school and anywhere else, including on-line.
- No child should be frightened by anyone at home, school or anywhere else, including on-line.
- Every child has the right to ask a kind adult for help if they feel frightened, unsafe or unsure in any way.
- Every child has the right to say 'No' and 'Stop' and have this respected.

### Having a voice and being heard

- Every child has the right to feel their voice is heard in a way that makes a difference and respects the fact that they are a citizen of the world.
- Every child has the right to ask for help if something in their life is stopping them from learning.
- Every child has the right to be helped by a kind adult to find the right words when they don't feel safe.

- Every child has the right to say if someone is being cruel to them or someone they care about, so that the cruelty can be stopped.
- Every child has the right to be supported to learn about all their child rights as well as knowing about the rights of others.

*Thanks to Trauma Informed [Schools](#) for allowing this to be shared.*

Article 3: everyone who works with children should always do what is best for each child, is relevant to RSE, as it is to the whole curriculum.

## **Related Policies**

The RSE policy has been written to link with other school policies and processes at Ysgol Griffith Jones. These include:

- Safeguarding and child protection
- Behaviour policy and procedures
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Mental health and wellbeing policy
- Online safety policy
- Equalities Policy
- Teaching and learning policy.

This RSE Policy aligns with the Equality Act 2010 under which schools must not unlawfully discriminate against learners on the basis of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation (collectively known as protected characteristics).

## **Aims and objectives of RSE**

The aim of RSE at Ysgol Griffith Jones is to give young people the information they need to help them develop & maintain healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It should also include elements of Sexual Health Education such as Contraception and STI's., developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex and sexual acts (and not applying pressure, and understanding the importance of consent). It should teach what acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships is.

In accordance with legislation, RSE at Ysgol Griffith Jones will be inclusive, pluralistic, factually correct and provide opportunities for learners to critically engage and respond to all areas of the RSE curriculum, within a safe environment. Staff will be well trained and all resources used will be carefully selected in line with the needs of the learners.

RSE will be taught through the Health and Wellbeing area of learning/ through cross cutting themes/ via discreet RSE lessons.

It is recognised by Estyn that [peer on peer sexual harassment](#) is highly prevalent in the lives of learners and the whole school approach to RSE at Ysgol Griffith Jones ensures that a preventative and proactive approach is adopted to tackle the issue.

## **Co constructing with pupils**

In accordance with the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the [Child](#), pupil voice will be considered to support in constructing the RSE curriculum at Ysgol Griffith Jones and pupils will regularly have opportunities to evaluate and review our RSE provision to ensure that it effectively meets their needs.

## **Working with parents/carers**

All parents/ carers will be kept informed about the provision of RSE at Ysgol Griffith Jones and will be encouraged to see RSE as a shared responsibility between school and home.

## **Working with visitors and external agencies**

When visitors and external agencies provide sessional learning opportunities for learners, the school will ensure that:

- The school and the external provider have agreed the aims, content and approach to be adopted.
- The local authority (education department) know of and have approved the agency as a provider of RSE support within schools.
- The school has made the provider aware of any relevant school policies.
- The school has informed and prepared pupils ahead of the visit and allowed them time to prepare questions, if appropriate.
- Contributions by external agencies are followed up and always form part of a whole school approach
- Schools who commission external agencies will apply and follow the safe recruitment and commissioning procedures of the local authority.
- The school has planned for the provider to be actively supported by a teacher throughout the visit.

## **Monitoring RSE**

Although RSE is a whole school responsibility, RSE will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated by those with responsibility for RSE at Ysgol Griffith Jones, in line with the school's curriculum policy. This includes:

- (a) The representative from the Governing body with responsibility for RSE
- (b) The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team
- (c) The RSE lead
- (d) Pupils

This RSE policy will be reviewed every year and this process will include all of the above, alongside other members of our school community (parents/ carers, the Governing body and pupils) to ensure that our RSE provision and curriculum is effective in meeting our statutory requirements.

## Appendix

- Curriculum map (code)

The code can be found [here](#). The three strands are:

- (a) Relationships and identity
- (b) Sexual health and wellbeing
- (c) Empowerment, safety and respect

Our curriculum plan takes account of the three phases of learning, as well as the developmentally appropriate needs of our pupils and is available to share on request.

The three phases of learning are:

1. Phase 1 – from age 3
2. Phase 2 – from age 7
3. Phase 3 – from age 11

- Resources and Services to Support RSE

- Carmarthenshire School Health Nurse Service
- Carmarthen Healthy Schools Network
- [Cross-cutting themes for designing your curriculum](#) – Welsh Government RSE Code and Guidance.
- [Brook Learn](#) - A range of high-quality, self-directed and mostly free-to-access courses to empower, support and encourage you to deliver effective relationships and sexuality education.
- [Spectrum](#) - Educating schools, pupils and parents in Wales about healthy relationships by taking a whole school approach to tackling domestic abuse.
- [VAWDASV](#) – legislation, duties and training provided by safer communities Wales.
- [Growing Up/Tyfu I Fyny Resource](#) – Supports delivery of RSE. Only available via HWB.
- [SENSE Interactive Resource](#) – Supports delivery of RSE. All schools have been provided with a copy.
- [SchoolBeat](#) - Providing information and resources for pupils, teachers, parents and partners to reinforce the key messages delivered by our School Community Police Officers in primary and secondary schools as well as alternative educational settings.
- [Frisky Wales](#) – NHS Wales Sexual Health Website.
- [NSPCC Learning](#) - Training and resources to help you protect children from neglect and abuse.
- [PANTS Resource](#) - Free resources for schools and teachers including a lesson plan, slide presentation, curriculum links, classroom activities and more.
- [Underwear Rule](#) - A simple conversation to help parents keep their child safe from sexual abuse.
- [Stonewall Cymru](#) - Supporting schools to become more LGBTQ+ inclusive.
- [ThinkuKnow Toolkit](#) - Information and guidance which is appropriate and relevant to the experiences of young people aged 11-18. The toolkit includes activities that can be delivered as one-off lessons or used as part of young people's relationships and sex education.
- [Kooth](#) - Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online wellbeing service for children and young people.
- [Meic](#) – A free 24-hour helpline for children and young people in Wales. MEIC provides advice and support for a range of issues including bullying and sitting exams.
- [Agenda](#) - A downloadable resource for educational practitioners who want to support children and young people (aged 7 – 18) to make positive relationships matter in their school and community.
- [Crush](#) - CRUSH is a free downloadable resource designed to prepare teachers for the new RSE Code and Guidance.
- [Terrence](#) Higgins Trust – Information about HIV, other sexually transmitted infections and how to maintain good sexual health.
- [CAFOD](#) - Education resources for primary and secondary schools.
- [Amnesty International UK](#) – Ordinary people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights.
- [Mentally Healthy Schools](#) - Learn without fear: girls' rights school pack.
- [Kaleidoscope Trust](#) – Freedom, safety and equality for LGBTQ+ people.
- [Barnardo's](#) - Resources to help identify and engage young people at risk of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- [Let's Talk About It](#) - Relationships & Sex Education Support.
- [Repository - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)
- [Children's Commissioner for Wales](#) – Resources for schools.

- [Home : Mentally Healthy Schools](#) - Educational Resources and Guidance documents based on RSE.
- [Education and Training Foundation](#) - Useful resources – Prevent for Further Education and Training.
- [Swansea Bay RSE Teaching Pack](#) – Lessons from Reception to Year 6, includes School Nurse lessons on hand washing (Reception) and puberty (Year 5). Only available via HWB.

## Glossary of common terms RSE (for school use ONLY)

This resource is for all staff in school to refer to, in order to further understand terminology and definitions. Not all these terms will be used in the primary school setting but a sound understanding of the terms is useful to build confidence in teaching staff. This is an organic document and will change over time as language and terminology changes.

The glossary is the result of collaboration with a number of colleagues across Swansea. It is not designed as a dictionary nor as a definitive list, but added as a professional learning resource for schools.

Keyword	Meaning
Abortion	<p>An abortion is a procedure to end a pregnancy. It's also sometimes known as a termination of pregnancy.</p> <p>The pregnancy is ended either by taking medicines or having a surgical procedure.</p> <p>Most abortions in England, Wales and Scotland are carried out before 24 weeks of pregnancy.</p> <p>They can be carried out after 24 weeks in very limited circumstances – for example, if the mother's life is at risk or the child would be born with a severe disability.</p>
Abro (sexual and romantic)	A word used to describe people who have a fluid sexual and/or romantic orientation which changes over time, or the course of their life. They may use different terms to describe themselves over time.
Ace / Aro	An umbrella term used specifically to describe a lack of, varying, or occasional experiences of romantic or sexual attraction.
Adoption	The act of fact of legally taking responsibility for another's child and bringing it up as one's own.
Allo (sexual and romantic)	Allo people experience sexual and romantic attraction, and do not identify as on the ace or aro spectrum. Allo is to ace and aro spectrum identities, as straight is to LGB+ spectrum identities. It is important to use words that equalise experience, otherwise the opposite to ace and aro becomes 'normal' which is stigmatising.
Antisemitism	Hostility or prejudice against Jewish people. A semite is a Jew.
Ally	A (typically) straight and/or cis person who supports members of the LGBT community.
Anti-racism	The active commitment to identify and challenge racism and discrimination at an individual, institutional and systemic level.
Arranged Marriage	A marriage in which the parents/family choose the person their son or daughter will marry.
Assigned Sex	The sex assigned to a person at birth.
Aromantic	A person who does not experience romantic attraction. Some aromantic people experience sexual attraction,

	while others do not. Aromantic people who experience sexual attraction or occasional romantic attraction might also use terms such as gay, bi, lesbian, straight and queer in conjunction with asexual to describe the direction of their attraction.
Asexual	A person who does not experience sexual attraction. Some asexual people experience romantic attraction, while others do not. Asexual people who experience romantic attraction might also use terms such as gay, bi, lesbian, straight and queer in conjunction with asexual to describe the direction of their romantic attraction.
Bias	A preference in favour of, or against, a person or a group based on personal characteristics or stereotypes.
Bisexual/ Bi	A term used to describe a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards more than one gender.
Biphobia	The fear or dislike of someone who identifies as bi based on prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views about bi people. Biphobic bullying may be targeted at people who are, or who are perceived to be, bi.
Bullying	Seek to harm, intimidate or coerce (someone perceived as vulnerable).
Butch	Butch is a term used in LBT culture to describe someone who expresses themselves in a typically masculine way. There are other identities within the scope of butch, such as 'soft butch' and 'stone butch'. You shouldn't use these terms about someone unless you know they identify with them.
Bystander	A person who is present at an event or incident who does not take part.
Catfish	A person who sets up a false personal profile on a social networking site for fraudulent or deceptive purposes.
Child and Early Forced Marriage	<p>Child and forced marriage (CFM) is a human rights violation and a harmful practice that disproportionately affects women and girls globally, preventing them from living their lives free from all forms of violence.</p> <p>CFM threatens the lives and futures of girls and women around the world, robbing them of their agency to make decisions about their lives, disrupting their education, making them more vulnerable to violence, discrimination and abuse, and preventing their full participation in economic, political and social spheres.</p> <p>Child marriage is also often accompanied by early and frequent pregnancy and childbirth, resulting in higher than average maternal morbidity and mortality rates.</p>

	<p>CFM may lead to women and girls attempting to flee their communities or commit suicide to avoid or escape the marriage.</p> <p>Child marriage is any marriage where at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age.</p> <p>Forced marriage is a marriage in which one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union. A child marriage is considered to be a form of forced marriage, given that one and/or both parties have not expressed full, free and informed consent.</p>
Child Sexual Exploitation Grooming	<p>Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of <u>sexual abuse</u>. When a child or young person is exploited they're given things, like gifts, drugs, money, status and affection, in exchange for performing sexual activities. Children and young people are often tricked into believing they're in a loving and consensual relationship. This is called <u>grooming</u>. They may trust their abuser and not understand that they're being abused.</p> <p>Children and young people can be <u>trafficked</u> into or within the UK to be sexually exploited. They're moved around the country and abused by being forced to take part in sexual activities, often with more than one person. Young people in gangs can also be sexually exploited.</p> <p>Sometimes abusers use violence and intimidation to frighten or force a child or young person, making them feel as if they've no choice. They may lend them large sums of money they know can't be repaid or use financial abuse to control them.</p> <p>Anybody can be a perpetrator of CSE, no matter their age, gender or race. The relationship could be framed as friendship, someone to look up to or romantic. Children and young people who are exploited may also be used to 'find' or coerce others to join groups.</p>
Circumcision (male)	The cutting off of the foreskin of (a male). This is often practiced as a religious rite by Jews and Muslims and by others as a social custom or for potential health benefits (such as improved hygiene).
Circumcision (female)	The cutting off of the prepuce or clitoris and labia minora of (a female). See <b>Female Genital Mutilation</b> .
Cisgender or Cis	Someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth.
Civil partnership	A legally recognised union of a same sex couple, with rights similar to those of marriage.

Coercion/ coercive control	The action or practice of persuading someone to do something through force or threats.
Coming out	When a person first tells someone/others about their orientation and/or gender identity.
Conflict	A serious disagreement or argument often protracted over a long period of time.
Consent	Permission for something to happen.
Contraception	Deliberate use of artificial methods to prevent pregnancy.
County lines	When criminals from major cities expand their drug networks to other areas of the country.
Cyberbullying	The use of electronic communication to bully a person, typically by sending messages of an intimidating or threatening nature.
Deadnaming	Calling someone by their birth name after they have changed their name. This term is often associated with trans people who have changed their name as part of their transition.
Demi (sexual and romantic)	An umbrella term used to describe people who may only feel sexually or romantically attracted to people with whom they have formed an emotional bond. People may also use terms such as gay, bi, lesbian, straight and queer in conjunction with demi to explain the direction of romantic or sexual attraction as they experience it.
Democracy	A system of government by the whole population typically through elected representatives.
Depression	Feelings of severe despondency and dejection.
Discrimination	The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, sex or religion.
Domestic abuse/violence	Incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour in the majority of cases by a partner/ex-partner, family member or carer.
Equity	The process of ensuring fairness and impartiality, recognising that we do not all start from the same place and that adjustments need to be made to address imbalances.
Executive	The branch of government responsible for putting decision or laws into effect.
Extremism	The holding of extreme political or religious views.
FGM female genital mutilation	Procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed for no medical reason. Also known as female circumcision (sunna, gudniin, halalays, tahir, megrez, khitan).

Femme	<p>Femme is a term used in LGBT culture to describe someone who expresses themselves in a typically feminine way.</p> <p>There are other identities within the scope of femme, such as 'low femme', 'high femme', and 'hard femme'. You shouldn't use these terms about someone unless you know they identify with them.</p>
Fertility	The ability to conceive children.
Fraser Guidelines	The guidelines applied to a child under the age of 16 who may be deemed mature enough to receive contraceptive advice without the knowledge of their parents/ carers.
Gaslighting	False narratives put forward that lead another person or group of people to doubt their own perceptions of reality, potentially causing them to become disoriented or distressed.
Gay	Refers to a man who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards men. Also, a generic term for lesbian and gay sexuality - some women define themselves as gay rather than lesbian. Some non-binary people may also identify with this term.
Gender	Often expressed in terms of masculinity and femininity, gender is largely culturally determined and is assumed from the sex assigned at birth.
Gender dysphoria	<p>Used to describe when a person experiences discomfort or distress because there is a mismatch between their sex assigned at birth and their gender identity.</p> <p>This is also the clinical diagnosis for someone who doesn't feel comfortable with the sex they were assigned at birth.</p> <p>Social dysphoria- discomfort with presenting socially as your birth gender  Body dysphoria- discomfort with your body being of a different gender  Mind dysphoria- discomfort with your mind and emotions not lining up with your gender identity.</p>
Gender expression	How a person chooses to outwardly express their gender, within the context of societal expectations of gender. A person who does not conform to societal expectations of gender may not, however, identify as trans.
Gender identity	A person's innate sense of their own gender, whether male, female or something else (see non-binary below), which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.
Gender reassignment	Another way of describing a person's transition. To undergo gender reassignment usually means to undergo some sort of medical intervention, but it can

	also mean changing names, pronouns, dressing differently and living in their self-identified gender.
Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC)	<p>This enables trans people to be legally recognised in their affirmed gender and to be issued with a new birth certificate. Not all trans people will apply for a GRC and you currently have to be over 18 to apply.</p> <p>You do not need a GRC to change your gender markers at work or to legally change your gender on other documents such as your passport.</p>
Gender Stereotypes	Gender stereotyping refers to the practice of ascribing to an individual woman or man specific attributes, characteristics, or roles by reason only of her or his membership in the social group of women or men.
Gillick competence	A term used in medical law to decide whether a child (under 16 years of age) is able to consent to their own medical treatment, without the need for parental permission or knowledge.
Hate crime	A crime, typically involving violence, that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or other grounds
Hepatitis	<p>Hepatitis (sometimes shortened to <b>hep</b>) is an inflammation of the liver. This large organ is on the right side of your body and has many functions, including turning your food into energy and filtering toxins such as alcohol out of your blood.</p> <p>Vaccines can help protect you from hepatitis A and B. There is no vaccine against hepatitis C. These are available free to men who have sex with men.</p>
Heterosexual	Refers to a man who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards women or to a woman who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards men.
HIV & AIDS	<p><b>HIV</b> HIV stands for <b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</b>. 'Immunodeficiency' refers to the weakening of the immune system by the virus.</p> <p>HIV has been passed on between humans for many decades but was only identified in the early 80s.</p> <p><b>AIDS</b> AIDS stands for <b>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</b>. It is a collection of illnesses ('syndrome') caused by a virus people pick up ('acquire') that makes their immune system weak ('immune deficiency').</p> <p>You can't get an AIDS diagnosis unless you're already HIV positive.</p>

Homophobia	The fear or dislike of someone, based on prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views about lesbian, gay or bi people. Homophobic bullying may be targeted at people who are, or who are perceived to be, lesbian, gay or bi.
Homosexual	Attracted to people of your own sex.
HPV Vaccine	<p>Girls and boys aged 12-13 in the UK are offered the HPV vaccine Gardasil. The second dose is offered 6 to 24 months after the first dose. It's important to have both doses of the vaccine to be properly protected.</p> <p>Gardasil protects against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HPV types 6 and 11m, which cause the majority of cases of genital warts.</li> <li>• HPV types 16 and 18, which cause 70% of cervical cancer cases, and are linked to cancers of the anus, vulva, vagina and penis.</li> </ul> <p>People who've missed the HPV vaccine at school can still get it for free on the NHS up until age 25 if you're a girl born after 1 September 1991 or boy born after 1 September 2006.</p> <p>Men who have sex with men (MSM) can also get the vaccine at sexual health clinics, up to the age of 45.</p> <p>Some trans women and trans men are eligible for the HPV vaccine if they have sex with MSM and are aged 45 or under.</p>
Immunisation	Action of making a person or animal immune to infection.
Inclusion	Enabling people to participate fully in what we do. Appreciating and using our unique differences in a way that shows respect for the individual.
Inclusive Education	Education that is based on the principles of acceptance and inclusion of all learners and young people. Ensuring learners and young people can see themselves reflected in the curriculum, their physical surroundings, and the broader environment, in which diversity is honoured and all individuals are respected.
Individual racism	Individual racism refers to the beliefs, attitudes, and actions of individuals that support or perpetuate racism. Individual racism can be deliberate, or the individual may act to perpetuate or support racism without knowing that is what he or she is doing.
Infertility	The inability to conceive children.

Institutional racism	Institutional racism refers specifically to the ways in which institutional policies and practices create different outcomes for different racial groups.
Intersex	<p>A term used to describe a person who may have the biological attributes of both sexes or whose biological attributes do not fit with societal assumptions about what constitutes male or female.</p> <p>Intersex people may identify as male, female or non-binary.</p> <p>Some people previously used the term hermaphrodite which many in the LGBT+ community consider should be classified as a dead word.</p>
Intimacy	Close familiarity/friendship involving a physical or emotional relationship.
Islamophobia	Dislike or prejudice against Islam or Muslims, especially as a political force.
Judiciary	The part of a country's government that is responsible for its legal system, including judges, and the courts.
Legislature	Group of people who have the power to make and change laws.
Lesbian	Refers to a woman who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards women. Some non-binary people may also identify with this term.
LGBTQ+	The acronym for lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace.
Malicious Communication	Any indecent or grossly offensive or threatening letter, electronic communication or other article sent with the intention of causing distress or anxiety. (See also cyberbullying).
Marriage	A legally recognised union of two people as partners in a personal relationship.
Menopause	The ceasing of menstruation (typically 45-50 yrs old).
Menstruation/ periods	A period is where a quantity of blood passes from the vagina for several days once a month. Periods can last between three and eight days and happen around every 28 days. They happen because girls are born with millions of tiny eggs inside their bodies - the cells needed to make a baby. These are stored in the ovaries. During puberty and onwards, once a month rising levels of the hormone oestrogen cause the ovaries to develop and release an egg. The egg arrives in the womb, which prepares itself by building up the lining of its walls. If the egg is not needed to make a baby, the womb lining breaks down and the egg leaves the body along with a quantity of blood through the vagina. This is what is known as a period.

Mental well-being	A state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his/her community.
Microaggressions	Everyday, subtle verbal or nonverbal behaviour that is directed at a member of a marginalised group, and has a harmful, derogatory effect. This may be intentional or unintentional.
Monarchy	A form of government with the monarch (king/queen) at its head.
Monogamy	The state or practice of having only one sexual partner at a time or the state or custom of being married to only one person at a time.
MSM	Men who have sex with men.
Non-binary	An umbrella term for people whose gender identity doesn't sit comfortably with 'man' or 'woman'. Non-binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some aspects of binary identities, while others reject them entirely.
Non-consensual behaviour	Without the willing agreement of the people involved.
Online Abuse Sexting Online Sexual Exploitation	<p>CSE can happen in person or <u>online</u>. An abuser will gain a child's trust or control them through violence or blackmail before moving onto <u>sexually abusing</u> them. This can happen in a short period of time.</p> <p>When a child is sexually exploited online they might be persuaded or forced to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• send or post sexually explicit images of themselves</li> <li>• film or stream sexual activities</li> <li>• have sexual conversations.</li> </ul>
Open relationship	An open relationship means having more than one romantic or sexual partner at a time. It's an arrangement that both parties agree is non-exclusive or non-monogamous. Also known as, "Non-monogamy," "polyamory," and "polyamorous relationship" also refer to an open relationship.
Outed	When a lesbian, gay, bi or trans person's sexual orientation or gender identity is disclosed to someone else without their consent.

Orientation	<p>Orientation is an umbrella term describing a person's attraction to other people. This attraction may be sexual (sexual orientation) and/or romantic (romantic orientation). These terms refers to a person's sense of identity based on their attractions, or lack thereof.</p> <p>Orientations include, but are not limited to, lesbian, gay, bi, ace and straight.</p>
Pan (Pansexual)	Refers to a person whose romantic and/or sexual attraction towards others is not limited by sex or gender. Another term for bisexual/bi.
Parliament (in the UK)	Highest legislature consisting of the Sovereign, House of Lords and House of Commons.
Platonic Relationship	People who are on the ace and/or aro spectrum may have platonic partnerships. These are relationships where there is a high level of mutual commitment which can include shared life decisions, shared living arrangements, and co-parenting of children. These partnerships can include more than two people. Like allosexual and alloromantic people, ace and aro spectrum people may be monogamous or polyamorous.
PEP / Prep	<p>PrEP -</p> <p>PrEP is a drug taken by HIV-negative people before and after sex that reduces the risk of getting HIV. It is available free of charge in Wales to 'at risk' groups including men who have sex with men.</p> <p>PEP</p> <p>PEP (sometimes called PEPSE) is a combination of <b>HIV</b> drugs that can stop the virus taking hold. It can be used after the event if you've been at risk of HIV transmission.</p> <p>To work, PEP must be taken within 72 hours (three days), and ideally should be taken within 24 hours. PEP is not a 'morning after pill' for HIV, and it's not guaranteed to work. It's meant as an emergency measure to be used as a last resort, such as if a condom fails during sex. Taking PEP will not protect you from other <b>sexually transmitted infections</b> or unplanned pregnancy.</p>
Pornography	Printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity.
Pregnancy	The state of carrying a developing embryo or foetus.
Prejudice	Preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.

Pronoun	Words we use to refer to people's gender in conversation - for example, 'he' or 'she'. Some people may prefer others to refer to them in gender neutral language and use pronouns such as they/their.
Protected Characteristics	It is against UK law to discriminate against anyone on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).
Protection	Methods that can be used to prevent sexually transmitted diseases/infections.
Puberty	The period during which adolescents reach sexual maturity and become capable of reproduction.
Queer	Queer is a term used by those wanting to reject specific labels of romantic orientation, sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Although some LGBT people view the word as a slur, it was reclaimed in the late 80s by the queer community who have embraced it. You shouldn't use this terms about someone unless you know they identify with them.
Questioning	The process of exploring your own sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
Race	A socially constructed system of categorising people, based on geographic, historical, political, economic, social and cultural factors, as well as physical traits.
Racialisation	The process by which societies construct races as real, different and unequal in ways that matter and affect economic, political and social life.
Racism	Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalised.
Radicalisation	The action or process of causing someone to adopt a radical position on political or social issues.
Romantic orientation	A person's romantic attraction to other people, or lack thereof. Along with sexual orientation, this forms a person's orientation identity.  Stonewall uses the term 'orientation' as an umbrella term covering sexual and romantic orientations.
Sex	Assigned to a person on the basis of primary sex characteristics (genitalia) and reproductive functions. Sometimes the terms 'sex' and 'gender' are interchanged to mean 'male' or 'female'.
Sexting	Sharing nudes is when someone sends a naked or semi-naked image or video to another person. Sharing nudes is sometimes called 'sexting', however this term is often used by young people to talk about sharing sexual messages and not imagery.

	Young people can send nudes using phones, tablets and laptops and can share them across any app, site or game, including during a livestream. It could include sharing them across devices using offline services like Airdrop or Bluetooth.
Sexuality	is one of the fundamental drives behind everyone's thoughts and feelings, thoughts and behaviours. It defines the means of biological reproduction, feelings about 'self' and attraction to others.
Sexual health	Sexual health is fundamental to the overall health and well-being of individuals, couples and families, and to the social and economic development of communities and countries. Sexual health, when viewed affirmatively, requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.
Sexual harassment	Behaviour characterised by the making of unwelcome or inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances in a workplace or other professional or social situation.
Sexual orientation	A person's sexual identity in relation to the gender to which they are attracted – homosexual, heterosexual, Bisexual.
Sexually Transmitted Infections	<p>Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), or sexually transmitted infections (STIs), are infections that are passed from one person to another through sexual contact. The contact is usually vaginal, oral, or anal sex. But sometimes they can spread through other intimate physical contact. This is because some STDs, like herpes and HPV, are spread by skin-to-skin contact.</p> <p>These can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chlamydia</li> <li>Genital warts and HPV</li> <li>Gonorrhoea</li> <li>Hepatitis</li> <li>Herpes</li> <li>LGB Lymphogranuloma venereum)</li> <li>Mycosplasma genitalium (Mgen)</li> <li>Molluscum</li> <li>NSU (Non-specific urethritis)</li> <li>Pubic lice</li> <li>Shigella</li> <li>Syphilis</li> <li>HIV</li> </ul> <p>For more information see <a href="https://www.tht.org.uk/hiv-and-sexual-health/sexual-health/stis">https://www.tht.org.uk/hiv-and-sexual-health/sexual-health/stis</a></p>
Stereotypes	A widely held, fixed or oversimplified image or idea of a particular person or thing.
Stress	A state of mental or emotional strain resulting from adverse or demanding circumstances.

Surrogacy	An arrangement, often supported by a legal agreement, whereby a woman agrees to become pregnant and give birth to a child for another person, who is or will become the parent of the child.
TERF	<b>Trans-exclusionary radical feminist:</b> an advocate of radical feminism who believes that a trans woman's gender identity is not legitimate and who is hostile to the inclusion of trans people and gender-diverse people in the feminist movement.
Transgender/ Trans	<p>An umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth.</p> <p><b>Transgender man</b></p> <p>A term used to describe someone who is assigned female at birth but identifies and lives as a man. This may be shortened to trans man, or FTM, an abbreviation for female-to-male.</p> <p><b>Transgender woman</b></p> <p>A term used to describe someone who is assigned male at birth but identifies and lives as a woman. This may be shortened to trans woman, or MTF, an abbreviation for male-to-female.</p>
Transitioning	The steps a trans person may take to live in the gender with which they identify. Each person's transition will involve different things. For some this involves medical intervention, such as hormone therapy and surgeries, but not all trans people want or are able to have this. Transitioning also might involve things such as telling friends and family, dressing differently and changing official documents.
Transphobia	The fear or dislike of someone based on the fact they are trans, including denying their gender identity or refusing to accept it. Transphobia may be targeted at people who are, or who are perceived to be, trans.
Transsexual	This was used in the past as a more medical term (similarly to homosexual) to refer to someone whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth. This term is still used by some although many people prefer the term trans or transgender. It is considered by most in the LGBT+ community to be a deadword.
Undetectable	HIV medication (antiretroviral treatment, or ART) works by reducing the amount of the virus in the blood to undetectable levels. This means the levels of HIV are so low that the virus cannot be passed on. This is

	called having an undetectable viral load or being undetectable.
Vaccination	Treatment with a vaccine to produce immunity against a disease.