

Secondary School RSE (Relationships & Sex Education) Policy

Purpose

This policy is a working document, which provides guidance and information on all aspects of RSE in the school for staff, parents/carers, and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups, the document needs to be available on the school website in the relevant areas, and upon request.

Legal documentation

This policy has been created and updated respecting the following legal documents:

- Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education (2019)
- DfE Sex and Relationship Guidance (2000)
- Secretary of State Guidance on Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000)

Overview

Relationship and sex education is learning about the emotional, social, and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality, and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science and others are taught as part of PSHE. A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful, and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.

Effective RSE is essential if young people are to make responsible, well-informed choices. Research demonstrates that good, comprehensive relationship and sex education does not make young people more likely to become sexually active at a younger age.

Effective RSE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain healthy relationships. It also enables pupils to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

Aims of the policy

The aim of RSE is to provide children with age-appropriate information, explore attitudes and values, and develop skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions about their health related behaviour.

This should take place with consideration of the qualities of relationships within families.

The objectives of RSE are:

- To provide age-appropriate knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled
- To clarify/reinforce existing knowledge
- To raise pupil self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others
- To help pupils understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, in an age-appropriate context, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives
- To help pupils develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) so that they learn how to create and maintain meaningful relationships
- To provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others
- To develop skills for a healthier safer lifestyle
- To develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media
- To respect and care for their bodies
- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood

Morals and Values Framework

The RSE programme will reflect the values of our school alongside the values of the PHSE and Citizenship program. It [the RSE curriculum] will invite regular feedback from parents, for example through sharing key themes in coffee mornings and year group meetings. RSE will be taught in the context of relationships, promoting self-esteem and emotional health and wellbeing, which demonstrates and encourages the following:

- Self-respect
- Respect for all human diversity including out of the norm sexual orientation
- Responsibility for own actions
- Consideration for family, friends, school and wider community

Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to the provision of RSE to all of our pupils. Our program aims to respond to the diversity of our pupil's cultures, faith and family backgrounds. RSE fosters gender and LGBT equality, challenging all forms of discrimination and bullying.

This will be achieved by:

- Providing a trusting and safe atmosphere where questions can be asked and answered appropriately, without embarrassment
- Making RSE part of our PHSE programme
- Setting working agreements with pupils to set up a safe environment
- Providing information which is easily understood, relevant, and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils
- RSE programmes will be delivered by adults who are confident and trained in the area of topic

The Teaching Programme for Relationship and Sex Education

Legal requirements

All schools must teach the following as part of the National Curriculum Science Orders- parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children (apart from the sex education element).

KS 3

Reproduction

- F: about the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence
- G: about the human reproductive system, including the menstrual cycle and fertilisation
- H: how the foetus develops in the uterus, including the role of the placenta as develops in the uterus, including the role of the placenta
- How the growth and reproduction of bacteria and the replication of viruses can affect health

Health

- M: that the abuse of alcohol, solvents, and other drugs affects health

KS 4

- The way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones
- Some medical uses of hormones, including the control and promotion of fertility
- The defence mechanisms of the body
- How sex is determined in humans

KS 5

- Gender and identity
- Miscarriages and unplanned pregnancies
- Date rape
- Toxic and positive masculinity
- Sex and media
- Sex readiness and encounters
- STI Clinics and advice
- Controlling relationships

Relationship & sex education should focus on the development of skills and attitudes not just the acquisition of knowledge.

This content has been agreed in consultation with governors, parents, and teaching staff.

The organisation of Relationship and Sex Education

The deputy head pastoral in partnership with the school counsellor are the designated staff members with responsibility for coordinating relationship and sex education.

RSE is delivered through science, PSHE and Citizenship, and literacy activities.

RSE is taught by classroom teachers and if appropriate, outside visitors.

A range of teaching methods which involve children's full participation are used to teach sex and relationship education. These include use of videos, discussion, looking at case studies, drama, and role play.

RSE is usually delivered in mixed gender groups however, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant.

Specific Issues

Parental consultation

As parents are the main providers of RSE, this policy has been written in consultation with the parents through regular meetings with whole year groups, for example at the start of each academic year.

The school includes information on RSE in the school prospectus and full details are available on request.

The school informs parents when aspects of the RSE programme are taught and provides opportunities for parents to view the videos and resources being used.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of RSE, not included in the National Curriculum Science Orders, alternative work would be set. However, this rarely happens, as we work in partnership with parents to recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education.

Child Protection / Confidentiality

Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue.

The staff member involved, will inform the Head Teacher /Designated Child Protection person in line with the DfE procedures for child protection.

A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

Dealing with difficult questions

Ground rules are essential to provide an agreed structure to answering sensitive or difficult questions. This framework facilitates the use of an anonymous question box as a distancing technique.

Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible, but if faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom, provision would be made to meet the individual child's needs.

Children with 'Special Needs'

Teaching and resources will be differentiated as appropriate to address the needs of SEND children in order for them to have full access to the content of RSE.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is the responsibility of the head teacher, named governor and teacher with responsibility for RSE.

The school will assess the effectiveness of the aims, content and methods in promoting students' learning by lesson observation, sampling teachers planning, questionnaires to teachers and children and feedback from parents.

The effectiveness of the RSE programme will be evaluated by assessing children's learning and implementing change if required.

RSE issues will be included in the induction programme for all new members of staff.

Related Policies

SS Curriculum Policy

SS Behaviour for Learning Policy

SS PSHE Policy

WS SEND Policy

WS Anti-bullying Policy

WS Child Safeguarding Policy

Document Control	
Draft Issued	AUGUST 2025
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Signed off by	SLT
Review Date	AUG 2028
Review cycle	3 years