

# Relationship and Sex Education Policy



**Approved by:** Penny Harris (Director) Jane Cox (Director) **Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Last reviewed on:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Next review due by:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## 1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

## 2. Statutory requirements

This policy meets the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

## 3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in line with the required statutory expectations and in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

- Review – the directors pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
- Staff consultation – school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
- Pupil voice – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE

## 4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

## 5. Curriculum

Our RSE curriculum is set within our PSHE curriculum but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

There may be particular focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings.
- How a baby is conceived and born?

## **6. Delivery of RSE**

High quality, evidence-based and age appropriate teaching of RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum.

Biological aspects of RSE are also taught within the science curriculum. RSE teaching is sensitive, developmentally appropriate and delivered with reference to the law. Where possible, pupils may also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Physical health and mental wellbeing is embedded within the school ethos. Topics taught include Mental wellbeing, Internet safety and harms, physical health and fitness, Healthy eating, Health and prevention, Drugs, alcohol and tobacco, Basic First aid and the changing adolescent body are taught within specific subject areas and within the school whole school activities programme.

## **7. Roles and responsibilities**

### **7.1 The governing body**

The governing body will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Education manager to account for its implementation.

## **7.2 The Education manager**

The Education manager is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory/non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

## **7.3 Staff**

Staff – predominantly the PSHE teacher are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the head teacher.

## **7.4 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

## **8. Parents' right to withdraw**

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 1 of this policy and addressed to the Education manager. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Education manager will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

## **9. Training**

Relevant staff are trained on the delivery of RSE and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar. The school will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

## **10. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the directors (Jane Cox and Penny Harris) through half termly visits to the school and including work scrutinies, learning walks and conversations with staff and pupils. Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the directors annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Education manager.

Appendix 1: Parent form: withdrawal from non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	

