

Richmond Avenue Primary School



Learning Achieving Together

Relationship & Sex Education Policy

RICHMOND AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introduction

In this document, Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) is defined as: learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of stable, positive and loving relationships such as marriage for family life, respect, love and care; it also includes relationships with other children and adults outside of the family and online. In addition, RSE involves learning about sex, sexuality and sexual health.

When we inform our pupils about sex education about sexual issues, we do this with regard to morality and individual responsibility in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use RSE as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

The teaching of Relationship & Sex education is part of the personal, social, health and citizenship curriculum (PSHCE) as well as the Science Curriculum.

Aims and objectives

We teach children about:

- The fundamental building blocks and characteristics of effective relationships
- Friendships, families and other types of relationships
- Understanding personal space and boundaries
- Showing respect for lives and relationships that differ to our own
- A range of family forms (including single parent, LGBT, adoptive, fostered and others)
- Positive emotional and mental wellbeing
- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- The way humans reproduce
- Respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, loving relationship
- The importance of family life
- Moral questions
- Relationship issues
- Respect for the views of other people
- Understanding that their body is their own and it is acceptable to say 'No'.

Context

Although RSE is not taught as a separate subject throughout the school it forms part of an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school.

In the appropriate year group (usually Years 5 & 6) children are given information about sexual behaviour and RSE is taught on the understanding that:

- it is taught in the context of marriage or a stable relationship and family life

- it is part of a wider process of social, spiritual, and moral education
- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies
- children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity
- it is important to build positive relationships with others involving trust and respect.
- children need to learn the importance of self control.

National Healthy School Standard

We participate in the National Healthy School Standard scheme, which promotes health education. As participants in the scheme we:

- consult with all members of the school community on matters of Health Education Policy, which includes SRE
- make teachers aware of SRE issues and policies
- look positively at any local or national initiatives that support us in providing the best SRE programme that we can devise.

Organisation

Through the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship curriculum (PSHCE) children are taught to have an understanding of and respect for their own lives, relationships and bodies and, are made aware that they are special. They are also taught about their responsibilities to others and relationship issues. Much of this curriculum is delivered through discussion and Circle Time activities through the Jigsaw scheme of work led by class teachers and members of the Leadership Team.

In the Science curriculum children are taught about growth and change life processes and the human life cycle in an age-appropriate way.

Children are taught about the main parts of the body, including names of all key body parts and how they work and, in the upper school both boys and girls learn about menstruation and other changes i.e. how boy's voices will change during puberty.

In Years 5 & 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children begin to experience puberty at this age. We take advice from DfE documentation and the LA about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Staff do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care.

By the end of Key Stage 2 we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how children's bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is and how it affects women. They will also learn about the changes that occur to boys, including wet dreams. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

Letters are sent out to and meetings offered for all parents and carers of Year 5 & 6 children to discuss this particular programme of lessons prior to teaching. Opportunities are given to explain what the taught aspects are, how they are taught and to see the materials that the school is using.

Throughout the school, PSHCE lessons are taught following the Jigsaw scheme of work. In regards to specific sexual education lessons and puberty in years 5 and 6, lessons are planned and taught using the BBC PSHE resources, teaching resources and lesson plans as well as using the 'Growing Up with Yasmine and Tom' programme, where appropriate.

Role of parents and carers

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents and carers of children in our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents and carers about the school's Relationships and Sex Education Policy and practice.
- answer any questions that parents and carers may have about the education of their child in relation to friendships, relationships, health and sex education.
- take seriously any issue that parents and carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE in the school.

We believe that through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. The school will make available to parents and carers any resources used to allow them to make informed decisions. Parents are also made aware that they do not have the right to withdraw their children from science lessons which may teach anatomy or reproductive cycles or, from lessons on Relationships and Health education.

Answering the Child's Questions and Disclosure of Abuse

Children's questions and anxieties are dealt with sensitively and privately in an attitude of partnership with parents and carers. However, if a child makes reference to being involved, or likely to be involved, in sexual activity then the member of staff will follow the procedures outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Staff respond in the same way if a child indicates they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the member of staff will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead as a matter of urgency. The Lead will follow local and national guidance in dealing with such incidents.

This policy appendix will be reviewed in line with our policy cycle and statutory requirements