

Relationships and Sex Education & Health Education Policy



September 2023

To be reviewed: September 2024

Rationale

"Sex and Relationships Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral, and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love, and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotional of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching." [Sex and Relationships Education Guidance ref DfEE 0116/200]

Aims

Relationships and Sex Education within our school aims to provide opportunities for pupils to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and become active and informed citizens. Information will be delivered in an accepting and honest way, which enables young people to contribute, and as deemed age appropriate. Parents views will be sought in the development of the RSE policy and programme.

RSE will focus on:

Attitudes and Values

- Learning about the values of family life and stable relationships
- Learning the value of respect, love, and care.
- Exploring, considering, and understanding moral dilemmas.
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making.

Personal and Social Skills

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others.
- Learning to make choices based on understanding of differences and with the absence of prejudice.
- Providing opportunities for young people to develop the ability to understand the consequences of their decisions and actions, and to manage conflict.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Information about healthier, safer lifestyles.
- Physical development.
- Emotions, relationships, and reproduction.

Knowledge Rich Curriculum

"A knowledge curriculum specifies, in meticulous detail, the exact facts, dates, events, characters, concepts and precise definitions that all pupils are expected to master in long-term memory." Joe Kirby

At Royston St John Baptist Primary School, we believe in the importance of providing a knowledge rich curriculum for all of our pupils. In this subject we teach the core National Curriculum content with a very clear emphasis on developing knowledge and vocabulary and an understanding of 'the best that has been thought and said' in each curriculum area. We have a carefully constructed curriculum which is designed to ensure that children acquire powerful knowledge through a well-planned sequence of learning that builds on prior knowledge from year to year. We use explicit teaching and planned opportunities to revisit and relearn this core knowledge. It is our belief that the more children know, the more they can learn and that 'knowledge begets knowledge'. Through knowing about the world children will then be able to develop their creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills in each discrete subject area. Through our curriculum we also strive to develop cultural capital in our pupils so that they develop into adults who are interesting to talk to and are interested in knowing more.

Organisation

The PSHE co-ordinator and Wider Curriculum Leader is responsible for the co-ordinating the policy and curriculum content.

RSE will be taught to mixed ability class groups, with provision for single-sex groups as appropriate, and will be delivered as a rolling programme. There is a cohesive, spiral curriculum running from Year 1 to Year 6.

Most of the above-mentioned areas will be taught as part of other areas of the curriculum. For example, developing positive relationships with peers is delivered through our PSHE and Collective Worship.

Other agencies and visiting speakers may be invited to input into the programme.

All linked agencies, as above, will be appraised of this policy and where they fit within the planned programme; there will be discussions before any input, including on confidentiality issues, and joint evaluation afterwards. No visitor will work with pupils in a classroom situation without a teacher present.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any RSE that falls outside of the statutory curriculum – this cannot withdraw human reproduction as in NC Science, for example. Any parents expressing concerns will be invited into school for discussions with the headteacher and teacher responsible for delivering the programme, and to view materials and resources. Should they still decide to exercise this right, school will make provision for the supervision of the child in another classroom. The parent will be advised that they have an obligation to provide the information at home using information available from the DfE.

Teachers will answer pupil questions appropriately and using their professional judgement, in line with this policy. There is no expectation that any teacher delivering RSE will automatically answer pupil questions, as this may infringe personal boundaries. However, in this instance, pupils will be advised to talk to their parents, another member of staff, or advised as to where they may be able to access information.

The programme will be monitored as an ongoing part of the process by both teaching staff and pupils.

Monitoring

Both the policy and classroom delivery will be monitored and evaluated as part of the regular cycle of self-review. Governors will be provided with an annual PSHCE report.

policy will be reviewed, after consideration of all the above, at least annually.

Parental Involvement

We believe that parents have the primary role in teaching their children about relationships and sex education. We aim to provide a programme in partnership with our parents, ensuring all pupils receive high quality provision in line with national good practice recommendations.

It is hoped that the school curriculum and the ethos of the school complements and enhances home teaching and values, giving due regard to the value of family life and loving and stable relationships.

We provide parents with opportunities to discuss the school's policy and practice. Parents will be informed about the timing of the RSE sessions and offered an opportunity to look at resources. Parents are encouraged to discuss and ask questions.

Under the terms of the 2011 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their child from part, or whole of the RSE programme that does not form part of the national curriculum. If a parent wishes to do this, they should discuss this with the Headteacher. We would encourage parents to raise, at the earliest opportunity, any concerns with the class teacher and Headteacher. The Headteacher will discuss with parents the implications of withdrawing their child from the non-statutory part of the curriculum.

Parents should make it clear which aspect of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in and put this in writing. In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson the child must stay in school and will be assigned to another class until the RSE lesson is over.