




Relationships and Sex Education policy

Red Hall Primary School

Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Date: March 2023
Last reviewed on:	September 2021	
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Signature of Chair of Governors:		

Introduction

Red Hall Primary School considers that Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) is an integral part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship curriculum. We also believe that it is an integral part of promoting our children in becoming world citizens.

We aim to offer pupils a carefully planned programme on human development, relationships, sexuality and family life within a safe, comfortable atmosphere and in a relaxed relationship between teacher and pupil. The programme is set within a moral framework and matched to the pupils' level of maturity.

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.

Statutory Requirements

The law (Education Act 1996) states that 'All schools must provide an up-to-date policy that describes the content and organisation of the SRE provided outside the National Curriculum.' As a maintained primary school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#). However, we are not required to provide sex education, but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Red Hall Primary School, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

Aims

The following are the aims of the teaching of RSE at Red Hall Primary School:

- To provide a secure environment to develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- To create a positive culture to explore different relationships in the world around us
- To develop the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others
- To develop pupils' empathy
- To understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within relationships (Including friendships)
- To be able to recognise unsafe situations and be able to protect themselves and ask for help and support

- To be able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work, including being prepared for puberty
- To understand the role the media plays in forming attitudes

Objectives

As part of RSE, pupils will be taught about the different family units. We aim to provide accurate information and to help to develop skills to enable them to understand differences and respect themselves and others. We aim to prevent and remove prejudice. RSE will contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and within society, thus preparing them for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life. We will work towards this aim in partnership with parents/carers.

Curriculum

RSE will be taught through various aspects of the curriculum, but we will carry out the main RSE teaching in our PSHE curriculum. The curriculum overview can be found in Appendix 1. We have developed the curriculum considering 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.

Primary sex education is not compulsory in primary schools. At Red Hall Primary we have decided to cover this to support our curriculum ethos to develop our children into world citizens.

Primary sex education will focus on:

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

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Relationship 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

Since RSE incorporates the development of self-esteem and relationships, pupils' learning does not just take place through the taught curriculum but through all aspects of school life including the playground. It is important to us that all staff understand they have a responsibility to implement this policy and promote the aims of the school at any time they are dealing with children.

Roles and responsibilities

Parents

At Red Hall Primary we are aware that the primary role in children's RSE lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective, we:

- Inform parents about the school's RSE policy and practice
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the RSE of their child
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE in the school
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of Sex education, not included in the Science Curriculum. However, this rarely happens, by working in partnership with parents they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education
- If parents/carers do request their child be removed from these lessons, then that child will be provided with alternative work, linked with the PSHE and Citizenship programme, and be invited to join another class for that session. A register of any such pupils will be kept and distributed to all teachers involved.

The Governing Board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Head Teacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non- statutory components of RSE.

Staff

Staff 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 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 headteacher.

Pupils

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

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. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

Pupils' Questions

Teachers will need to answer questions that may arise through the direct teaching of sex education, as well as those that may be asked at other times. All questions will be handled sensitively and set within a general context.

Questions which teachers feel uncertain about answering should be discussed with a senior member of staff and answered at a later date. Consideration should be given to religious or cultural factors, and to parents' wishes before questions are answered. If the teacher decides to discuss the matter on an individual basis, a record must be kept of that discussion.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher 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.

Monitoring arrangements

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by Esther Jones, PSHE lead. At every review, the policy will be approved by Helen Tomlinson and Red Hall's Governors.