

Policy for RSE (Relationships and Sex education)

This policy will be reviewed annually by the strategic development committee of the governing body.

Date of last review: Summer 2022

Date of next review: Summer 2023

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

Statutory Requirements

As a primary school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils in accordance with section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

We are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum, including requirements to teach science, which would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. In teaching RSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

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

Policy Development

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

1. Review – a working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance;
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations;

3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to give their comments about the policy;
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE;
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, 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 children are fully informed and do not seek answers online.

Primary sex education will focus on preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map available on the school website.

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught in a cross-curricular approach, alongside the science curriculum, PSHE, ICT, RE, assemblies and school values.

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

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions;
- Recognising and assessing potential risks;
- Assertiveness;
- Seeking help and support when required;
- Informed decision-making;
- Self-respect and empathy for others;
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle;
- Managing conflict;
- Discussion and group work.

Our 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). We are also sensitive to the fact that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body has approved this policy and will hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and the deputy headteacher manages requests to withdraw pupils from any non-statutory components of RSE.

Staff

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 deputy 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 will not be able to withdraw their child from Relationships Education in primary school
- Parents will be able to withdraw their child from primary school classes which address sex education - i.e. those that do not sit within the Relationships Education curriculum.
- Primary schools are required to teach National Curriculum science, which includes some elements of sex education. Parents do not have a right to withdraw from this.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of RSE. Before doing so, parents are encouraged to talk to the class or deputy head teacher and/or view teaching resources in order to inform any decisions regarding withdrawing their child. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Deputy Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE. The RSE curriculum will be shared with parents to ensure coverage if pupils are withdrawn. The RSE policy will be shared with any parents who wish to withdraw their child.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction.

The deputy 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 where required.

Monitoring

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) through planning and book scrutinies, learning walks and pupil voice.

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

This policy will be reviewed by Governors on an annual basis.