



# Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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| <b>Governor Review Date</b>  | February 2021 |
| <b>Review Frequency</b>      | Annual        |
| <b>Date for Next Review</b>  | January 2022  |
| <b>Head Teacher Approval</b> | January 2021  |
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## Introduction

We have based our school's Relationships and Sex Education Policy (referred to as RSE throughout this policy document) on the DfE guidance *'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education - Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers'* (published in June 2019 and updated in July 2020).

The document states that:

In primary schools, we want the subjects to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy.

Teaching about mental wellbeing is central to these subjects, especially as a priority for parents is their children's happiness. We know that children and young people are increasingly experiencing challenges, and that young people are at particular risk of feeling lonely.

All of this content should support the wider work of schools in helping to foster pupil wellbeing and develop resilience and character that we know are fundamental to pupils being happy, successful and productive members of society. Central to this is pupils' ability to believe that they can achieve goals, both academic and personal; to stick to tasks that will help them achieve those goals, even when the reward may be distant or uncertain; and to recover from knocks and challenging periods in their lives.

RSE is part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum in our school. PSHE is taught weekly in each class. DfE guidance states that sex education is not compulsory in Primary Schools, but that it is up to the individual school to determine whether they need to cover any additional content on sex education to meet the needs of their pupils. With that in mind, the majority of our RSE curriculum is focussed on **Relationships Education**, taught at an age appropriate level throughout school and with support from professionals such as the school nurse. We do, however, recognise that some pupils may ask questions pertaining to sex or sexuality which go beyond what our PSHE curriculum sets out.

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

This policy must be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding/Child Protection & Equality Policy. In matters of interpretation, please refer to the Headteacher, whose decision is final.

At an **age appropriate level**, we teach children to:

- Identify people who are important in their lives.
- Understand what friends are.
- Describe how to maintain friendships.
- Explain that our bodies change and grow throughout our lives.
- Identify the reproductive organs for both males and females and their purpose. (Year 5 and 6 only.)
- Identify the changes during puberty. (Year 5 and 6 only.)
- Identify what menstruation is. (Year 5 and 6 girls only.)
- Explain how puberty affects hygiene. (Year 5 and 6 only.)
- Understand the affects puberty has and where to get advice. (Year 5 and 6 only.)
- Describe the biological difference between males and females. (Key Stage 2 only.)
- Understand complications in family relationships.
- Learn about different types of family.
- Describe personal safety.
- Describe the dangers of online relationships and friendships.
- Explain the characteristics of a healthy relationship.
- Identify what family is and the roles of a family member.
- Understanding relationships.

## **Curriculum**

Miss Collis is the PSHE lead and, as such, is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the subject, alongside senior leaders in school.

Planning for RSE is kept electronically for all staff to access.

We teach RSE as part of our PSHE curriculum, through four Key Concepts: Physical Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Keeping Safe and Managing Risk and Identity, Society and Equality. However, some of the biological aspects are covered in Science.

We may also teach RSE through other subject areas (for example Science). Linked with R.E, children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved.

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 then that all staff understand that they have a responsibility to implement this

policy and promote the aims of the school at any time they are dealing with children.

RSE is accessible to all pupils, including those with SEND.

### **The role of parents**

We are well 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 sex education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home.

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

### **Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school as part of statutory RSE (but not Relationships or Health Education sections).**

If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard and will provide alternative activities for their child, although may discuss the benefits of receiving this education and the detrimental impact that withdrawal may have on the child.

### **The role of other members of the community**

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education, including the School Nursing service. Working with external organisations can enhance the delivery of the subject, bringing specialist knowledge and different ways of engaging young people. The teaching would always fit with the planned programme and the content would be age appropriate and

accessible. Teaching materials should be seen in advance to ensure they meet the full range of pupils' needs.

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers conduct RSE lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse, as outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

### **The role of the Headteacher**

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our RSE policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher and PSHE leader liaise with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme, and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

### **Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on an annual basis. This policy will also be reviewed as and when guidelines change.

This document should be read alongside the Equality Act (DfE, 2010)

***Every care has been taken in the compilation of this policy and the information provided is correct at the time of publication. Any policies that have been referred to in this policy are available on the school website ([www.caedmonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.caedmonprimaryschool.co.uk)) or are available upon request from the school office. Written information that is normally provided by the school can be provided in alternative form.***