



Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

River Bank Primary School

2021

As a primary school we must provide relationships education to all children as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017 and the government's statutory requirements from September 2020.

Definition

RSE is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. Through RSE children learn about healthy relationships, different families, respect, love and care, reproduction, puberty, hygiene, the body, sex, sexuality and sexual health.

Why we deliver RSE

At River Bank we are building the foundations of skills and knowledge that will be developed further at secondary level. Our key aim in providing RSE throughout the school is to safeguard our pupils. During their time at this school, children will learn key knowledge and skills to help keep them safe and prepare them for adult life.

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 children for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help children develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach children the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

Policy development

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

1. Review – the RSE lead teacher will pull 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 are invited to give their views about the policy (May 2021).
5. Ratification – once amendments are made, the policy will be shared again with governors and ratified.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is set on our school website, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, children and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of children. Teachers will 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 their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

If children ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so pupils are fully informed and do not seek answers online. Children will be encouraged to discuss any unanswered questions at home with parents/carers.

River Bank Primary sex education will focus on:

- How a baby is conceived and born.

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 the computing and physical education (PE) curriculum. Girl's in year 5 receive a standalone curriculum session which focuses on menstruation. Children in Year 6 receive standalone curriculum sessions which focus on sexual education.

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
- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born
- Sexual education in year 5 and 6 will be taught in gender groups.

These 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) along with reflecting sensitively 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 will approve the RSE policy, and hold the head teacher 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 children 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 children
- Responding appropriately to children 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 head teacher. Class teachers are responsible for teaching RSE at River Bank Primary School. Class teachers are responsible for the delivery of sex education lessons.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education 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. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency following protocols laid down in the safeguarding policy. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the Head teacher. The Head teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (See also Safeguarding Policy.)

Children

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

Parents

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 of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective, we:

- Inform parents about the school's sex education 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.
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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 components of sex education within RSE. As a school we classify sexual intercourse as the act in which a baby could be conceived. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from this part of the programme, they should discuss this with the Head teacher, and make it clear which aspects they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard. Parents are required to confirm this in writing. Alternative work will be given to children who are withdrawn from sex education. It will then be the responsibility of the parent to deliver this learning to their child before they begin secondary education.

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 head teacher 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 arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Oli Cresswell, PSHE lead, through a range of methods including learning walks and pupil perceptions. Children's development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems. This policy will be reviewed by Governing Body annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body.