

Stretton Handley CE (VC) Primary School RSE Policy



1. Rationale and Ethos

Since September 2020, Relationships Education has been compulsory for **all** pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for **all** pupils receiving secondary education. Health Education has also been compulsory in all schools except independent schools. Together they form RSHE.

As a school we wholeheartedly support the philosophy of RSE and believe it is best taught as part of PSHE and citizenship education. The programme seeks to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils as well as preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in a digital age.

Relationships and health education is compulsory in all primary and secondary schools, sex education is currently **not** compulsory in primary school, however the DfE continues to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education programme that is tailored to the age and maturity of the pupils.

As part of the Education Act 2002 all schools must provide a balanced and broad-based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, whilst also preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

All schools are required to comply with relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and should pay particular attention to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Under the provisions of the Equality Act, schools must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation (collectively known as the protected characteristics). All schools must ensure that RSHE is accessible for all pupils and should comply with the SEND Code of Practice.

Whilst as a school we are aware we need to be mindful of and respectful to a wide variety of faith and cultural beliefs, and we will make every attempt to be appropriately sensitive; equally it is essential that young people still have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

We acknowledge that all young people deserve the right to honest, open and factual information to help better form their own beliefs and values, free from bias, judgement or subjective personal beliefs of those who teach them.

1. Policy development process

This policy was formulated in consultation with the whole school community with input from;

- Members of staff – through regular agenda items at staff meetings, consultation documents, surveys
- Governors – discussions at governor’s meetings, training
- Children – pupils contribute to the development of the policy through the school council, circle time discussions etc.
- Other partners – visiting external providers in school; health, police, wider community, faith groups

This will ensure that the RSE curriculum continues to meet the needs of pupils, staff and parents and that it is in line with current DfE advice and guidance

The Policy is available

- Online at <https://www.strettonhandley.derbyshire.sch.uk>
- From the school office

2. Parental rights to withdraw

We are committed to ensuring that the education provided to pupils in relationships education / RSE is appropriate to the age of pupils and compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

We recognise, in accordance with statutory guidance, that parents have the right to request for their child to be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education delivered as part of the statutory RSE (other than sex education in the National Curriculum as part of Science), but not from relationships education at primary. Parents wishing to exercise this right must do so in writing to the Head teacher. We will make reasonable adjustments and provide suitable work for their child(ren) at this time.

3. Roles and responsibilities

The Head teacher – has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the governing body, parents/carers, LA and outside agencies, and in identifying a subject leader who will work closely with colleagues in related curriculum areas in order to complement and not duplicate content.

The subject leader will take responsibility for:

- Policy development and review
- Implementing the policy and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice
- Ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review
- Assessing and coordinating training and support for staff and parents/carers where appropriate
- Manage all aspects of the RSHE programme developing curriculum materials where appropriate
- Liaise with external agencies to deliver specific elements of the programme
- Monitor and quality assure the programme to ensure continuity and progression within the spiral curriculum
- To ensure that this subject is fully represented at appropriate curriculum and pastoral meetings

4. Aims and objectives

The aim of RSE is to help children build healthy friendships and positive relationships in an age appropriate way. The overall objectives of the RSE curriculum are concerned about raising awareness

of attitudes and values, developing personal and social skills and promoting knowledge and understanding. RSE covers more than biological facts and information. It endeavours to help children develop self-esteem, self-responsibility as well as the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare children to develop caring, stable, healthy relationships. Appreciation of the value of self-respect, dignity, marriage, civil partnership and parental duty should be encouraged in all pupils together with the sensitivity to the needs of others, loyalty and acceptance of responsibility. RSE will look at aspects of diversity in an inclusive and non-judgemental way.

5. **Staff training**

RSE can be a sensitive issue and teachers may welcome support and training. Provision will be made available for teaching staff to clarify legislation, curriculum requirements and to consider appropriate teaching approaches and materials. The school will support the use of visitors from outside, such as health professionals, police and voluntary sector, and other organisations to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

6. **Curriculum design**

The RSHE curriculum will be taught through the Derbyshire County Council-recommend PSHE Matters curriculum. Specific teaching elements could, but may not necessarily, include:

- A topic-based curriculum
- Curriculum days
- Discrete PSHE/ RSE lessons
- Visits from external providers
- Links to other curriculum areas – PE, Citizenship, Science, Religious Education etc

The RSHE Curriculum will be delivered to all students and will:

- Be taught by dedicated staff supported by a variety of professionals, including where appropriate, the school nurse, police etc, with expertise in specific topic areas.
- Be organised in a spiral curriculum which develops themes/topics, taking into account the age and maturity of the children. This means that topics are revisited in greater detail as students get older.
- Be taught in lessons delivered to mixed-ability teaching groups.
- Employ a variety of teaching and learning styles will be used to ensure effectiveness and differentiation.
- Ensure parents have the right to request withdrawal from all or part of the sex education element, but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that is part of the National Curriculum science.
- Encourage teachers to discuss and establish 'ground rules' at the beginning of every lesson which will enable everybody to discuss openly and honestly without fear and embarrassment or judgement.
- Ensure teachers will endeavour to create a supportive environment for all pupils.
- Use local data to inform priorities for the school's RSE programme – such as the school's health profile.

Across all key stages, students will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication – speaking and listening, including how to manage changing friendships, 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

7. Content

Through an effective and creative curriculum and by the end of primary school, pupils should know about;

- Families and people who care from them.
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

Physical health and mental wellbeing

Pupils will be taught about the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing; of the benefits and importance of daily exercise, good nutrition and sufficient sleep, and that mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life in the same way as physical health.

Within the curriculum and by the end of primary school, pupils should know about;

- Mental wellbeing
- Online behaviour and safety
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid
- Changing adolescent body

8. Managing difficult questions

It is inevitable that controversial issues may occur as part of RSE. These issues will be addressed with sensitivity and at a level appropriate to the age group and developmental stage and will take in to account any additional SEND, in an objective manner free from personal bias. Consideration will be given to the potential for small group or 1-1 discussion for specific questions to be discussed. Account must be taken of different viewpoints such as different religious beliefs. Discussion should be set within the legal framework and students made aware of the law as it relates to these issues. Students are made aware that some information cannot be held confidential, and should understand that if certain disclosures are made, certain actions will ensue. At the same time students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

9. Monitoring, evaluation and review

To ensure the RSE programme is effective, is meeting the needs of pupils and complies with the RSE statutory guidance, the following strategies will be used to quality assure the programme of study;

- Evaluation self-review from pupils after specific topics or at the end of a key stage
- Comments from pupils and representatives from the pupil voice

- Whole class discussions

This policy is reviewed annually by the governing body who will monitor the application and outcomes of this policy to ensure it is working effectively

10. Confidentiality and child protection

It is inevitable that effective RSE which allows for open discussion to take place may lead to disclosures from pupils. It is essential that those teaching RSHE are completely familiar with the child protection procedures. Pupils disclosures or suspicion of abuse must be followed up, with the pupil concerned, that same day and referred to the designated safeguarding lead, and if not present; their deputy. They will deal with these disclosures or suspicions in line with the school's child protection policy.

11. Links with other policies

The RSHE policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies;

- Safeguarding
- Peer on Peer Abuse Policy
- Behaviour
- Anti-bullying
- Online safety
- SEND
- Inclusion
- Equality and Diversity