

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Swan Lane First School



Approved by: Governing Body

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1. Aims

The aims of sex and relationship 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
- Provide information which is easy to understand and relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils and taught in the context of relationships.

2. Statutory requirements

RSE is not compulsory in primary schools. However, primary schools are required to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

If primary schools do teach RSE, they must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At Swan Lane First School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

Under section 3.6 of the National Curriculum, RSE is compulsory from year 7 onwards.

3. 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 member of staff or 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 attend a meeting 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

4. 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.

5. Delivery of RSE

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

Pupils in Year 5 also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a class teachers and teaching assistants.

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

These skills are taught within the context of family life.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The governing board

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

6.2 The headteacher

The headteacher 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 (see section 7).

6.3 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/non-science 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.

6.4 Pupils

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

7. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE.

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 headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Parents will be informed of possible negative experiences or feelings that may result from exclusion and the ways in which these can be minimised.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE.

8. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in the continuing professional development of all staff when required.

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 when requested.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Head, Science and PSHE Leads through:

Curriculum reviews, learning walks, book trawls and learning observations

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

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Governing Body.