

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

Member of Staff Responsible	Senior Deputy Head/DSL
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Distribution:	All staff

1 Introduction

In this policy, relationship education means understanding the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including friendships, family relationships and relationships with other children and adults. It aids the development of positive self-esteem, which helps the children cope with the challenges of personal growth. It enables children to make responsible decisions. It is about exploring feelings and emotions and developing confidence.

Relationship and sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'.

Relationships and sex education is part of the Personal, Social and Health and Economic Education curriculum in Years 6, 7 and 8. In Year 5 and 8, more factual aspects of sex education are taught as part of the Science syllabus whilst it is also covered in PSHEE. While we use sex education 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 and increase their awareness of appropriate contact with others. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

2 Aims and objectives

We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- the way humans reproduce;
- respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship;
- the importance of family life;
- moral questions;
- relationship issues;
- respect for the views of other people;

3 Context

We teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and values framework (see SMSC Policy). Whilst sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that:

- sex education should be taught in the context of family life;
- sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies and be aware that they should speak out if being engaged in any sexual activity— see Safeguarding Policy.
- children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity;
- it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect.

4 Organisation

In PSHEE, we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach them about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty.

In Key Stage 1, we teach children about keeping healthy and how the body grows and changes. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people, how to show respect for each other and build positive relationships with friends, family and other children and adults.

In Key Stage 2, we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth. Children learn about developing healthy, nurturing relationships. In Science lessons in Key Stage 2 and 3, teachers inform children about puberty, how a baby is conceived and born, as well as contraception. In KS3, the boys learn about the difference between sex, gender identity and sexual orientation.

We make every effort to dovetail the Science and PSHEE curriculum to ensure that sex education topics are taught concurrently so as to enable links between the subjects to be forged. This also enhances the boys' understanding of the topics.

Withdrawal

There continues to be no right of withdrawal from any part of the national curriculum from Relationships Education or Health Education. However, parents/ carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. RSE is taught within the framework of guidance on our Equal Opportunities policy in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

A letter is sent home to parents prior to any module in PSHEE or Science in which SRE is covered so that parents are aware. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme taught at Rokeby by contacting the head of phase.

5 Confidentiality

Teachers who are uneasy about teaching these lessons should inform the Head of PSHEE and/or Science who will work with the teacher to deliver the SRC curriculum and will encourage further CPD if appropriate.

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 would 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. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the DSL (see also Safeguarding Policy).

Reviewing the Effectiveness of the Policy

The Head of Science and Head of PSHEE/Citizenship, in conjunction with the Deputy Head Pastoral and the Headmaster, review the policy annually.