

Ribble Drive Community Primary School



Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

RATIONALE

Ribble Drive's RSE policy is based on the DfE guidance document *Sex and Relationship Education Guidance*

In this document, RSE is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage as a context for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual behaviour.'

Thus defined, at Ribble Drive Primary School Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) is integrated into the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education programme of the school, as well as being a topic in the Life Processes and Living Things unit of the Science Curriculum.

It is our whole school view that the delivery of high quality RSE is extremely important, however, should they wish, parents can withdraw their child or children from all or part of RSE provided, except that which is required by the Science National Curriculum.

RSE is part of the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum in our school; issues surrounding physical, moral and emotional development are covered both in the curriculum and in circle time. RSE, as such, is taught only to Year 6 children, with their parents' permission. These sessions are conducted by the school nurse and the informing of children about sexual issues is done in the context of matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use RSE as a means of promoting any form of sexual Orientation.

Thus, we are enabled to realise both our Mission Statement:

"Be The best You Can Be."

And our Disability Statement:

"To make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that any member of the school community with a disability is not placed at a disadvantage and to endeavour to anticipate their needs in advance of their participation in any activities within the school"

This policy applies to the **whole school**, including the EYFS

This policy supports UNICEF: [The Convention on the Rights of the Child.](#)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The foundation of our RSE programme is to develop pupil's knowledge, skills and attitudes so that they make informed choices about their behaviour, feel confident and competent about acting on these choices, and move with confidence from childhood through to adolescence.

This underpins our aims and objectives of our RSE programme which are to:

- Promote a concern for relationships with other people, respecting the rights and feelings of others;
- Developing loving, caring relationships as friends, parents, members of a family and community, and ultimately sexual partners;
- Provide knowledge of how the human body functions, how it grows and how we change physically and emotionally;
- Emphasise the importance of self-esteem in encouraging all members of the school community to respect and care for their body and mind;
- Develop positive values and a moral framework which will guide pupil's choices, judgements and behaviour into adolescence and adult life;
- Present the facts about lifestyle choices in order for all pupils to then make informed judgements and to be prepared for the demands of life in the 21st century;
- Create an ethos of positive relationships between all members of the school community, and for pupils to be given appropriate, accurate answers as naturally and honestly as possible to their questions on personal relationships and sex;
- Work closely with parents, carers and governors in the dissemination of information on RSE and develop a partnership approach thus ensuring that all pupils receive the best RSE; and
- Give regard to the age, emotional and physical maturities of pupils within all age groups taught, including those pupils with special educational needs, and ensure equality of opportunity and experience.

CONTEXT

We teach RSE in the context of the school's aims and values framework (see Curriculum Policy values statement). While RSE 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 RSE in the belief that:

- RSE should be taught in the context of marriage and family life;
- RSE is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies;
- 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;
- children need to learn the importance of self-control.

ORGANISATION

We teach RSE through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main RSE teaching in our personal, social and health education curriculum, we also teach through other areas, e.g. Science.

Class teachers deliver RSE. The school nurse and other health professionals are invited into school to provide expertise and information in RSE for the whole school.

A variety of teaching methods and resources are used to deliver the RSE programme including circle-time, relationship building games, videos, books, 3D models, photographs, charts, posters and visiting agencies.

In PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues.

In Science lessons in both key stages, teachers inform children about how their bodies will change as they grow. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other.

In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth. In Year 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the school nurse, who delivers a talk to boys and girls separately, using approved teaching materials. Boys and girls have separate sessions considering puberty and body changes. A letter is written to parents/carers of pupils in the relevant Year Group, informing them of the RSE programme.

To ensure complete respect for each other, guidelines and 'ground rules' are made very clear to all teachers and pupils, which include no 'put downs' or reference to any individual person's relationships.

By the end of Key Stage 2 we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. This is always taught with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

Details of what will be taught is sent to parents before the talk is given.

PROVISION FOR PUBESCENT PUPILS

Parents are encouraged to inform the school when their daughter begins menstruation, in order that all staff can be aware of those times when they may be feeling unwell or unable to take part in physical activities including P.E or swimming. However, physical activity is encouraged as it improves blood flow and reduces the cramping associated with periods.

Girls starting their periods have unrestricted access to sanitary facilities kept by Year 6 Class teacher and Head teacher. Sanitary bins are provided in the girls toilets.

Female members of staff are always available to reassure pubertal girls and ensure that there is no embarrassment with regard to dealing with their periods.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

The school is 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 cooperation. In promoting this objective, we:

- inform parents about the school's RSE policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the RSE of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers about the arrangements for RSE in the school;
- inform parents about our RSE programme so that teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the RSE offered in Year 6. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

CONFIDENTIALITY

RSE lessons are conducted 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. 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 Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Policy.)

THE ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our RSE policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. The Head Teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school RSE programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework. The Head Teacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Local Governing Body to monitor our RSE policy.

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