

RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) Policy July 2021

Definition

RSE is the lifelong 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 teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is **NOT** about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity - this would be inappropriate teaching (DfEE Guidance 0116/2000).

Intent

The aims of Relationships, Sex and Health education (RSHE) at Dial Park Primary are to:

- Provide a consistent approach across the school
- Help children develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Promote responsible behaviour
- Create a positive culture of communication around issues of relationships
- Embed a culture of restorative justice, whereby staff and children (led by appointed Restorative Champions) focus on the building, maintaining and repairing of relationships
- Teach children the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies (including internal and external reproductive organs)
- 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
- Give pupils an understanding of reproduction and sexual development
- To provide all pupils with knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable them to make positive and healthy choices concerning relationships as they grow up and deal with risk.

Implementation

Our Relationships and Sex Education programme will be delivered in an age appropriate and sensitive manner by class teachers. Teaching is normally taught in mixed gender groups, though some content is covered in single sex groups i.e. menstrual hygiene, single sex question sessions etc.

We aim to provide a learning atmosphere where children feel safe and relaxed, and where they feel confident to engage in discussions around potentially sensitive subjects and themes.

Ground rules in class and across the school are essential when discussing sensitive subject matter and teaching RSE. Clear ground rules are established in

RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) Policy July 2021

partnership with the class, and then reinforced at the start of each relevant lesson. Agreed ground rules are that:

- Everyone listens politely to each other
- Everyone gets a turn to speak, if they want to
- Everyone has a right not to speak
- Everyone's contribution is respected
- We don't ask or have to answer any personal questions
- We use the correct language for body parts when we have learnt it

Dealing with sensitive issues and difficult questions

Pupil's questions will be dealt with honestly and sensitively and in an age appropriate way. A questions box will be available for pupils to ask anonymous questions. If teachers are faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom, then a time will be created for the teacher to talk to a child individually. Children may also be signposted back to parents/carers and the teacher will contact the parents/carers to give a context to the conversations that have been held in class. If any questions raise safeguarding concerns, teachers will refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Parent/Carer rights

Parents and carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.

Department for Education guidance states that by the summer term 2021, all primary schools must teach Relationships Education. The teaching of Sex Education in primary schools remains non-statutory, with the exception of the elements of sex education contained in the science national curriculum: including knowledge of the main external body parts; the changes as humans develop to old age and reproduction in some plants and animals. Other related topics that fall within the statutory requirements for Health Education, such as puberty and menstrual wellbeing, will be included within PSHE education lessons.

RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) Policy July 2021

Within the statutory guidance document for RSE and Health Education, the DfE also encourages schools to deliver age-appropriate sex education if they feel their pupils need this information