

Policy on RSE

Relationship and Sex Education

1 Aims and objectives

- 1.1 As a school we aim to provide knowledge about the importance of loving and caring relationships as well as preparing pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up, and to give them an understanding of human reproduction. As part of our policy, when matters of a sexual nature need to be discussed, these are done in a natural and open manner with appropriate discretion. Pupils questions will be answered sensitively with due consideration being given to any particular religious or cultural factors, and in relation to the children's age and level of maturity. Parents will be approached first if matters of a particularly delicate nature will be discussed. Indeed, the teaching of RSE as part of our PSHCE curriculum helps in many ways to meet the objectives set out in The Children's Act 2004 ('Every Child Matters') – that children 'be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve economic well-being'.
- 1.2 Our objectives in the teaching of RSE are for all of our children:
- To enable pupils to make responsible, well informed decisions about their lives
 - To help and support pupils through their physical, emotional and moral development
 - Help pupils to learn respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood
 - To develop the skills and understanding needed to live confident, healthy and independent lives
 - To help pupils deal with difficult moral and social questions
 - To learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as the key building blocks of community and society
 - To provide pupils with accurate information to enable them to understand difference for the purpose of removing and preventing prejudice
 - To understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others

2 Teaching and learning style

- 2.1 RSE can be found embedded within our PSHCE teaching throughout school. It is covered in the teaching of our curriculum through our three overarching themes 'Health and well-being', 'Relationships' and 'Living in the Wider World' (based on the PSHE Association revised programme of study). Many issues linked to RSE are also embedded in our school core values or "values for life": Respect, Honesty, Teamwork, Passion, Self-belief and Determination. These are displayed and recognised throughout all phases of the school.
- 2.2 Most of the time, RSE will be taught through the weekly whole class PSHCE lessons by their own class teacher. Where an individual pupil may ask an explicit or difficult question, this may be answered individually later. Teachers must use their own skills and discretion in these situations and/or seek advice from the PSHCE co-ordinator or SLT if necessary.
- 2.3 In Early Years and Key Stage 1 education on relationships focuses on friendships, bullying and building self-esteem. In Key Stage 2, this is built on further as well as educating children about puberty before the onset of any physical changes. This is taught in an age appropriate manner with the support of the School Nurse if available.
- 2.4 Ground rules may be developed alongside pupils to ensure that teachers and pupils alike do not feel embarrassed or anxious about unexpected questions or comments. (eg. No one will have to answer personal questions, correct names for body parts used etc). Meanings of words or phrases will be explained in a sensible and factual manner.

3 RSE and ICT

- 3.1 Throughout school, children are taught about the importance of staying safe online and ensuring that communication and relationships online remain respectful, safe and appropriate. [See computing and safeguarding policies]

4 RSE and inclusion

- 4.1 Some parts of RSE are compulsory – these are part of the national curriculum for science. Parents/carers can withdraw their children from all other parts of RSE if they would like to by written information.
- 4.2 The teaching of RSE within PSHCE is delivered sensitively with due consideration being given to any particular religious or cultural factors, and in relation to the children's age and level of maturity.

5 Specific Issues

5.1 Child protection and Confidentiality

Children have the right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment. Teachers are aware that they may bring fears or worries into the classroom and that effective RSE (which teaches an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in healthy relationships) may lead to a disclosure of a Child Protection (CP) issue.

If a member of staff suspects there to be a CP issue or is faced with a disclosure, then it is their duty to follow our CP procedure and pass this information on to the designated member of staff (Head teacher, Social Inclusion Manager). [See Child Protection policy]

5.2 Puberty

Boys and girls need to be prepared for puberty. West View Primary School will plan the appropriate age to do so, in consultation with parents/carers.

5.3 Menstruation

As with our education around puberty, girls will be prepared to cope with the onset of menstruation. Sanitary products will be made available within school if needed and a disposal unit is situated in the girls' toilets. When changing for PE, pubescent children have the option of using the toilets and using the onsite male/female changing rooms when necessary.

6 Monitoring and review

- 6.1 The planning and coordination of teaching RSE are the responsibility of the PSHCE and SMSC subject leader, who also supports colleagues in their teaching, by keeping informed about current developments in the subject, and by providing a strategic lead and direction for PSHCE (RSE).
- 6.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.