



The Sunflower Federation

**Relationships and Sex
Education Policy**

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(Due to be reviewed 2021)

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Introduction

This policy applies to all schools in the Sunflower Federation and is reflective of Meadow Wood School as a primary school and Breakspeare School as an all through provision from 3 -19 years with both primary and secondary pupils.

As a school which values personal development in our children and young people we ensure our Relationships and Sex Education, RSE is up to date and regularly evaluated.

The term Relationships and Sex Education, RSE is used in this policy rather than Sex Education. This is to stress that our approach goes beyond the provision of biological information to focus on clarifying attitudes and values, and developing self – esteem and the skills to manage relationships.

1. Definition:

‘Sex and relationships education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.’ (PSHE Association, 2014)

2. Statutory Requirements:

As we are a maintained school with primary and secondary pupils we are required as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to;

- Provide relationships education to all primary aged pupils
- Provide relationships and sex education to all secondary pupils

3. Aims and Objectives:

The aim of RSE is to equip children and young people with the information, skills and values to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships, and to take responsibility for their sexual health and wellbeing.

As a school that caters for pupils with severe learning difficulties it is essential that our SRE programme is sensitive to the needs and abilities of individual pupils. Teachers will use their professional judgement to determine what parts of the SRE programmes of study are relevant for each individual student.

We believe that ‘...sex and relationships education must be sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils and may need to evolve and adapt over time as the pupil population changes.’ (Equalities Act, 2010)

Effective RSE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed choices about their health and wellbeing. It helps support them through their physical, emotional and moral development. It helps young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

As a school we aim to highlight these core objectives; -

Attitudes and Values

- To develop an awareness of pupils’ rights and responsibilities in their relationships with others.
- To increase pupil awareness of making, sustaining and breaking relationships.
- To emphasise the importance of the caring, loving aspect of relationships within the context of sex education.
- To emphasise the importance of modesty, responsible attitudes and appropriate behaviour within relationships.

Personal and Social skills

- To develop an awareness of pupils’ own and others gender identity
- To develop an awareness of pupils’ own and others sexuality.
- To promote strategies that encourages safe sexual behaviour.
- To develop an identity of appropriate and inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Knowledge and Understanding

- To provide factual information regarding the physical development and changes during puberty in relation to each gender.
- To provide the facts and information relating to reproduction and conception issues.
- To develop an awareness of abuse and exploitation, enabling students to seek help if they feel themselves to be at risk.

4. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the programmes of study relating to Myself, My Independence and My Wellbeing in both of the schools’ curriculum models. It is incorporated as part of the school day where peer relationships are developing and as discreet blocks of lessons. Biological aspects of RSE are delivered through the science curriculum and other aspects may be included in Religious Education. (RE)

Relationships education focusses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including;

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

Relationships and Sex Education focusses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances. Families could include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents / carers amongst other structures. The learning needs to reflect sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them.

The schools offers an individualized sex education curriculum. The curriculum is delivered considering the pupils' cognitive and social-emotional maturity and involves liaison with parents and carers.

As a staff we endeavour to answer questions as and when they arise, as simply as possible with the relevant information to hand. It is important to encourage responsible attitudes and decision making through role-play, discussion and where applicable teacher direction. Teaching is delivered in individual or small group sessions.

Curriculum Content may include;

- Body Awareness
- The differences between males and females
- Puberty – body changes
- Biology- puberty, menstruation, sexuality, sexual urges, masturbation, sex.
- Relationships – friends, families, boyfriends/ girlfriends
- Families – our families, different types of families
- Strangers – People we know and don't know.
- Nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours
- Making and expressing choices
- Consent – saying no
- Safe and unsafe touches (NSPCC PANTS campaign)
- Public and private
- Links to e-safety – Facebook, other social media, what are appropriate photos/posts
- Asking for help- who to ask or tell

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 The governing board

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

5.2 The head teacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the schools, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE.

5.3 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 components of RSE

Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the head teacher.

5.4 Parents and Carers and the Right to Withdraw

Most of a pupil's informal relationships and sex education occurs within the family and the school's programme will complement and build on this in co-operation with pupils' parents/carers.

We acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from Relationships and Sex Education except where it is part of the Science National Curriculum.

Parents of primary school aged children do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents of secondary aged children have the right to withdraw their children from the components of sex education within 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.

We are committed to working with parents and carers. We will offer support by keeping parents informed of when specific SRE lessons will be taught. We will inform parents of the content of these lessons and offer them the opportunity to view teaching materials (e.g. lesson content, DVDs, worksheets) before teaching takes place in school.

We will listen to the concerns of individual parents and work together with them regarding any aspect of SRE that may be pertinent to them and their child at any particular time. We will provide individual visual support, where appropriate, so that home and school can work together. We will notify parents when particular aspects of SRE will be taught and inform them of their right to withdraw their children from these lessons.

If a parent requests that their child be removed from SRE the school can provide support by offering education material so that the parent can deliver the part of the programme at home as and when they see fit.

6. Organisation and Planning

The school will provide a programme of sex and relationships education for all pupils to promote a greater understanding and awareness of themselves and their relationships with others.

For primary aged pupils the teaching of relationships and sex education will take place within a cross curricular framework. For secondary aged pupils the programme will be delivered in a cross curricular manner and during timetabled sessions, planned to meet the needs of individual pupils. It is the professional responsibility of teachers to produce detailed course content and methodology appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils.

Careful consideration will be given to the maturity and intellectual development of the pupils with regard to the more explicit explanations that may form part of an SRE lesson. Avoiding confusion and distortion of facts and information is vitally important. The importance of individual rights plays a significant part within this area. Everyone has the right to say 'no' and this aspect is demonstrated through role-play and discussion.

7. Recording, reporting and assessing

SRE will be monitored within the schools *Myself, My Independence and My Wellbeing* curriculum areas. Class teachers will use the assessment pathways relevant for the individual to record, report and assess.

8. Monitoring

Monitoring will be undertaken by phase leaders in conjunction with the senior leadership team. It will include curriculum development, classroom observation and liaison with parents.

9. Linked policies

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- SEN policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy