



Policy Document:
Relationship and Sex Education Policy

As adopted by the Governors of North Ridge High School.

Date reviewed by Governors: April 2018

Date of next review: April 2020

Equalities Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 has been drawn up to tackle inequality and prevent discrimination against people on the basis of 'protected characteristics'. It brings together several existing laws and aims to make understanding the law simpler. It also introduces a new single public sector equality duty, which requires public bodies to actively advance equality. All policies at North Ridge take account of this Act.

North Ridge High Specialist Support School - Relationship Sex and Education (RSE) Policy

Article 13 (freedom of expression) Every child has the right to be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

Article 17 (access to information from the media) Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

Article 34 (sexual exploitation) Every child has the right to be protected from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

(UNICEF Rights of The Child)

1. Introduction – context

Some of our school aims are particularly relevant for our RSE work. We aim to:

- Provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve
- Promote self-esteem by recognising and celebrating the achievement of individual pupils

- Promote the ability to respect other people's points of view regardless of race, gender, religion, sexuality or ability.
- Promote and encourage the involvement of parents and carers in all aspects of school life by welcoming them into school and helping them add to the positive and friendly atmosphere of the school.

Relationship and sex education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe including online activity.

Some aspects of RSE are taught in PSHCE and others are taught as part of science. A comprehensive programme of RSE provides the pupils with accurate information about all kinds of relationships, their bodies, how to keep themselves safe, reproduction, sex, and sexual health.

Through our PSHCE work we aim to prepare our pupils to deal with growing up and preparation for adulthood. Because of the diverse and complex needs of our pupils we will often need to do this on an individual basis and ensure that this matches the pupils' level of understanding of issues being taught. It is very important that we teach about teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

2. Definition

Relationships and sex education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

3. Parents right to withdraw their child from RSE

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RSE (excluding withdrawal from sex education in National Curriculum science) although very few choose to exercise that right.

Parents should notify the school in writing stating the aspects that they wish to withdraw their child from.

4. Ethos and Values

The RSE curriculum will reflect the values of our school/PSHCE programme and will be taught in the context of relationships. In addition, RSE will promote children's self-esteem and emotional well-being and help them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

Every pupil should receive their full entitlement to RSE regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation. This will be matched to their level of ability and may be taught on an individual basis when required. RSE will be delivered in a way that encourages pupils to 'have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life' (Education Act 1996)

5. Policy, Leadership and Management

In the first instance the PSHCE co-ordinator is responsible for writing the RSE policy and revising the policy when necessary. The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the PSHCE co-ordinator. The curriculum/policy committee of the Governing Body will consider the policy on a review cycle. Where changes and amendments are being considered we will consult with staff and parents and agree the final policy with the full Governing Body.

6. Implementation

a) Curriculum

Prior to beginning a relationship and sex education programme of study we will contact parents/carers to inform them. We will provide parents and carers with an opportunity to visit the school to discuss the work and will provide workshops which allow them to look at our teaching resources. This meeting takes a multiagency approach and is done in consultation with and the support of our school nurse, PSHCE coordinator, family support worker and deputy head.

We will also support parents/carers in developing home based learning programmes, as necessary, to support their child at home and will provide training programmes in school.

Where we are concerned about possible inappropriate behaviour, by students, we will work with parents individually and will also refer to other specialist agencies such as CAMHS for intensive individual work. Where any inappropriate behaviour raises safeguarding concerns we will follow the school safeguarding policy.

The minimum statutory requirements that schools must deliver to all children based on the teaching requirements for Science from the National Curriculum are

<u>National Curriculum Science</u>	
<p>Key Stage 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their sense and reproduce Children should recognise and name the main external parts of the human body That humans can produce offspring and these grow into adults Children should recognise similarities 	<p>Key Stage 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That fertilisation in humans ... is the fusion of a male and a female cell About the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence About the human reproductive system, including the menstrual cycle and fertilisation How the foetus develops in the uterus How the growth and reproduction of bacteria and the replication of viruses can affect health
<p>Key Stage 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction About the main stages of the human life cycle, including puberty and how a baby is born. 	<p>Key Stage 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones Some medical uses of hormones, including the control and promotion of fertility The defence mechanisms of the body How sex is determined in humans

PSHCE provides an appropriate vehicle for RSE. A planned and co-ordinated approach to PSHCE can provide an appropriate framework for RSE to take place, providing pupils with consistent messages.

Please note that prior to beginning a relationship and sex programme of study we will contact parents/ carers to inform them. We will provide parents with an opportunity to visit school to discuss the work and view our teaching and learning resources.

b) Dealing with difficult questions

Within school, clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate to answer as a question should be established with the RSE Policy.

- Use specific ground rules for this work which will clarify boundaries for children/young people
- Clarify that personal questions should not be asked
- If a teacher doesn't know the answer this should be acknowledged.
- If a question is too explicit, is age inappropriate for the pupil or the whole class, then it should be acknowledged with a promise to attend to it later on an individual basis.
- If a question is raised that alerts a member of staff that a pupil is at risk of sexual abuse, then the school's Child Protection Procedures should be followed.

c) Dealing with difficult topics

Relationship and Sex Education can sometimes raise difficult areas for some schools, therefore the school needs to consider its approach and provide guidance to teaching staff to enable them to respond appropriate to questions raised by pupils. Examples of such issues for some schools are as follows:

- Unsafe relationships, such as controlling relationships and other types of abusive relationships
- Teenage pregnancy
- Contraception
- Abortion
- LGBT
- Masturbation

7. Breaches of the Policy

All staff are under a contractual obligation to uphold the policy as with all other school policies but take note that teachers have the right to opt out of teaching RSE if they feel uncomfortable with the topic.

8. Relationship with other policies

a) PSHCE

Relationship and Sex Education sits within the PSHCE curriculum and as such is planned, delivered, co-ordinated, assessed and monitored in line with the school's PSHCE Policy.

b) Anti-bullying

This should be linked to the school's broader policy on anti-bullying. An effective RSE programme will include raising awareness about LGBT, therefore an anti-bullying policy needs to include strategies to tackling homophobic bullying in school.

c) Child Protection

If any disclosure occurs during a RSE lesson or concerns are raised, teachers will follow the school's procedure for Child Protection.

d) Confidentiality

Children have rights under the Children's Act 1989 and can thus expect to be treated sensitively regarding seeking information and advice. However, staff should not give guarantees of confidentiality where the safety and welfare of a child is at risk.

As Stonewall School Champions North Ridge is committed to upholding the Equality Act 2010, which requires schools to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender reassignment. North Ridge seeks to do this through taking proactive steps to support all pupils in developing an understanding of, and respect for, LGBT people. Our school is a place where every person has the right to be themselves, to be included and to learn in a safe and happy environment. Developing an understanding of sexuality and gender are an integral part of RSE lessons, which are currently taught throughout the Summer Term.