



## **Sherford Vale School & Nursery**

### **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy**

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**Next Review date: Spring 2023**

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### **Policy Statement**

Since the then Right Honourable Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Education, announced, on March 1st 2017, that it is her intention to make Relationships Education statutory in Primary schools from September 2019, Sex and Relationship Education has now become better known as RSE – Relationship and Sex Education – to reflect the changes that are to come. However, much of the guidance still refers to it as SRE. Both are used here interchangeably for ease until RSE becomes statutory.

'Sex and Relationship Education (RSE) is lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings' (Sex Education Forum, 1999).

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 children and young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

RSE makes an important contribution to health and well-being by supporting children and young people's ability to learn, achieve and flourish.

*"The right to education includes the right to sexual education, which is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realising other human rights, such as the right to health, the right to information and sexual and reproductive rights."*

Report to the UN General Assembly - July 2010 | Item 69, paragraph 18

At Sherford Vale we believe that effective RSE can make a significant contribution to the knowledge, skills and understanding needed by pupils if they are to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. It is an intrinsic part of the physical, intellectual, and emotional growth of an individual. Relationship and sex education is delivered through the PSHE and Citizenship framework and the Science curriculum. Other related policies and documents include the PSHE & Citizenship Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Science Policy, Child Protection Policy and the Promoting Race Equality document.

### **Current RSE requirements**

Maintained primary and secondary schools are legally obliged to have an up-to-date RSE policy that describes the content and organisation of RSE taught outside science in the National Curriculum. This includes special schools. In primary schools if the decision is taken not to teach RSE beyond the National Curriculum this should also be documented in the policy. The policy should be made available to parents/carers on request. It is the school governors' responsibility to ensure that the policy is developed and implemented. School governors are in law expected to give 'due regard' to the RSE 2000 guidance and to maintain an up to date RSE policy which must be made available to parents/carers. (Learning and Skills Act, 2000).

It is good practice for academies, free schools, colleges and independent schools to have a policy on RSE. All state-funded schools must publish information in relation to each academic year, about the content of the school's curriculum for each subject, and this includes any teaching in personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education and RSE (see 2.5 in the National Curriculum framework (DfE 2013a) and Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 1124).

## **RSE and statutory duties in school**

RSE plays a very important part in fulfilling the statutory duties all schools have to meet. RSE helps children understand the difference between safe and abusive relationships and equips them with the skills to get help if they need it. State-funded schools have responsibilities for safeguarding and a legal duty to promote pupil well-being (Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 38).

- Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) is an important part of PSHE Education (DfE, 2014).
- When any school provides RSE they must have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance; this is a statutory duty. Academies do not have to provide RSE but must also have regard to Secretary of State's guidance when they do (DfE, 2013). Ofsted will evaluate how schools help to ensure a healthy lifestyle for their children (Ofsted, 2013, Subsidiary Guidance Para 64).
- It is compulsory for all maintained schools to teach the parts of sex education that fall under National Curriculum Science which must be taught to all pupils of primary and secondary age e.g. the biological aspects of puberty and reproduction (Education Act 1996, National Curriculum 2014).

Updated government safeguarding guidance is now available (Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2018) and includes a section about being alert to signs that young girls may be at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM). School summer holiday especially during the transition from primary to secondary schools is thought to be a key risk time for FGM. See also the government Multi-agency practice guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation (2016) which includes a section for schools.

RSE has clear links with other school policies aimed at promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including the:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- ICT Policy and Safe Internet Use Policy
- Equality Policy
- RE Policy
- Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy

At Sherford Vale, RSE is delivered through the Jigsaw PSHE programme.

## **Aims and Objectives**

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of RSE in the school for staff, parents/carers and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups the document needs to be available on request and presented in a way that is easy to understand.

## **The role of the headteacher**

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about the RSE policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The headteacher 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 headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

## **Equal Opportunities Statement**

The Equality Act 2010 covers the way the curriculum is delivered, as schools and other education providers must ensure that issues are taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Schools have a duty under the Equality Act to ensure that teaching is accessible to all children and young people, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). Inclusive RSE will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice – including homophobia – and promote understanding and respect. The Department for Education has produced advice on The Equality Act 2010 and schools (DfE, 2014b).

Schools have a legal duty to promote equality (Equality Act, 2010) and to combat bullying (Education Act, 2006) (which includes homophobic, sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying) and Section 4.2 of the national curriculum (2014) states "Teachers should take account of their duties under equal opportunities legislation that covers race, disability, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment.

**Jigsaw RSE Content** The grid below shows specific RSE learning intentions for each year group in the 'Changing Me' Puzzle.

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Piece Number and Name</b>	<b>Learning Intentions</b> <b>'Pupils will be able to...'</b>
FS1/2	Piece 3 Growing Up	D4 - Seek out others to share experiences. Show affection and concern for people who are special to them D6 - Explain own knowledge and understanding, and ask appropriate questions of others ELG - Show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings
1	Piece 4 Boys' and Girls' Bodies	identify the parts of the body that make boys different to girls and use the correct names for these: penis, testicles, vagina respect my body and understand which parts are private
2	Piece 4 Boys' and Girls' Bodies	recognise the physical differences between boys and girls, use the correct names for parts of the body (penis, testicles, vagina) and appreciate that some parts of my body are private tell you what I like/don't like about being a boy/girl
3	Piece 1 How Babies Grow	understand that in animals and humans lots of changes happen between conception and growing up, and that usually it is the female who has the baby express how I feel when I see babies or baby animals
	Piece 2 Babies	understand how babies grow and develop in the mother's uterus and understand what a baby needs to live and grow express how I might feel if I had a new baby in my family
	Piece 3 Outside Body Changes	understand that boys' and girls' bodies need to change so that when they grow up their bodies can make babies identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the outside during this growing up process recognise how I feel about these changes happening to me and know how to cope with those feelings
	Piece 4 Inside Body Changes	identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the inside during the growing up process and why these changes are necessary so that their bodies can make babies when they grow up recognise how I feel about these changes happening to me and how to cope with these feelings
4	Piece 2 Having A Baby	correctly label the internal and external parts of male and female bodies that are necessary for making a baby understand that having a baby is a personal choice and express how I feel about having children when I am an adult
	Piece 3 Girls and Puberty	describe how a girl's body changes in order for her to be able to have babies when she is an adult, and that menstruation (having periods) is a natural part of this know that I have strategies to help me cope with the physical and emotional changes I will experience during puberty
5	Piece 2 Puberty for Girls	explain how a girl's body changes during puberty and understand the importance of looking after myself physically and emotionally understand that puberty is a natural process that happens to everybody and that it will be OK for me
	Piece 3 Puberty for Boys and Girls	describe how boys' and girls' bodies change during puberty express how I feel about the changes that will happen to me during puberty
	Piece 4 Conception	understand that sexual intercourse can lead to conception and that is how babies are usually made understand that sometimes people need IVF to help them have a baby appreciate how amazing it is that human bodies can reproduce in these ways
6	Piece 2 Puberty	explain how girls' and boys' bodies change during puberty and understand the importance of looking after myself physically and emotionally express how I feel about the changes that will happen to me during puberty
	Piece 3 Girl Talk/Boy Talk	ask the questions I need answered about changes during puberty reflect on how I feel about asking the questions and about the answers I receive
	Piece 4 Babies – Conception to Birth	describe how a baby develops from conception through the nine months of pregnancy, and how it is born recognise how I feel when I reflect on the development and birth of a baby
	Piece 5 Attraction	understand how being physically attracted to someone changes the nature of the relationship express how I feel about the growing independence of becoming a teenager and am confident that I can cope with this

## **Organisation**

The school's RSE programme will not be delivered in isolation but will be firmly embedded in relevant curriculum areas including PSHE, Citizenship, RE, Picture News Oracy sessions and assemblies. RSE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups. Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of RSE in school. These visitors are supervised and supported by a member of staff at all times.

## **Links to other policies and curriculum areas**

We recognise the clear link between Jigsaw PSHE and the following policies and staff are aware of the need to refer to these policies when appropriate.

- Science curriculum
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Child Protection Policy

## **Withdrawal from RSE lessons**

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Relationship and Sex Education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum Science. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the head teacher and/or RSE Coordinator who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RSE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed. Materials are available to parents/carers who wish to supplement the school RSE programme or who wish to deliver RSE to their children at home.

## **Working with parents and carers**

The government guidance on RSE (DfEE 2000) emphasises the importance of schools working in partnership with parents and carers. Under current legislation schools should enable parents/carers to exercise their right to withdraw their children (until the age of 19) from any school RSE taught outside National Curriculum Science (Education Act 1996). This applies to maintained primary and secondary schools and includes pupils attending a sixth form that is part of a school. It does not apply to sixth form colleges and further education colleges. Parents/carers have a legal right to see the school RSE policy and to be given a copy of it (Education Act 1996). Parents/carers should also be aware that schools are legally required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. Sex and relationships topics can arise incidentally in other subjects, such as Science, and it is not possible to withdraw pupils from these relatively limited and often unplanned discussions.

## **Staff Professional Development**

All staff benefit from Jigsaw PSHE training in order to enhance their PSHE delivery skills. Opportunities are provided for staff to identify individual training needs on a yearly basis and relevant support is provided. In addition to this, support for teaching and understanding PSHE issues is incorporated in our staff INSET programme, drawing on staff expertise and/or a range of external agencies.

## **Specific Issues within RSE**

### **Language**

During all RSE lessons across KS1 and KS2, the correct terms for all body parts and functions will be used. Sex-related slang words will be clarified in a factual way and it is made clear to pupils which words are potentially offensive and that from this point onwards, the correct terms will be used. This aims to prevent bullying of children for not knowing definitions and points out the offensive nature of some words.

### **Teaching Sensitive and Controversial Issues**

Sensitive and controversial issues are certain to arise in learning from real-life experience. Teachers will be prepared to handle personal issues arising from the work, to deal sensitively with, and to follow up appropriately, disclosures made in a group or individual setting. Issues that we address that are likely to be sensitive and controversial because they have a political, social or personal impact or deal with values and beliefs include: family lifestyles and values, physical and medical issues, financial issues, bullying and bereavement. Teachers will take all reasonable, practical steps to ensure that, where political or controversial issues are brought to pupils' attention, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. Teachers will adopt strategies that seek to avoid bias on their part and will teach pupils how to recognise bias and evaluate evidence. Teachers will seek to establish a classroom climate in which all pupils are free from any fear of expressing reasonable points of view that contradict those held either by their class teachers or their peers.

### **Answering Difficult Questions and Sensitive Issues**

Staff members are aware that views around RSE issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias using Jigsaw. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect that others have the right to a different opinion. Both formal and informal RSE Education arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead if they are concerned.

Our school believes that RSE Education should meet the needs of all pupils, answer appropriate questions and offer support. In Jigsaw Pieces that cover RSE provision, this should be regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents/carers on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.

### **Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation**

Sherford Vale believes that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively in line with our Anti-Bullying Policy.

### **Pupils' Access to Help and Support**

The school displays ChildLine posters, and information about any agencies that support the welfare of children is held in the safeguarding and child protection area on the staff system. There is also a dedicated safeguarding board by the staff room as well as a child friendly board linked to this in the main corridor. The School Nurse can offer confidential advice to any child. Girls who start their periods at school are given confidential advice and support by members of staff. Girls are aware of the provision of sanitary protection which can be obtained from the school's first aid area. There are two sanitary bins in the KS2 girls' toilets and additional allocated toilets.

## **Confidentiality and Child Protection/Safeguarding Issues**

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the named child protection coordinator who takes action as laid down in the Child Protection Policy. All staff members are familiar with the policy and know the identity of the member of staff with responsibility for Child Protection issues. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process.

## **Dissemination**

This policy is available on our school website where it can be accessed by the community. Training is regularly delivered to staff on the policy content. Copies are available from the school office on request from parents/carers.