



Temple Mill Primary School

Relationships and Health Education Policy

Policy Scope: Temple Mill Primary School
Responsibility: Local Governing Board
Date Adopted: February 2024
Review Frequency: Yearly
Review Date: February 2025

Relationships and health education in primary schools became compulsory in September 2020 as planned; however, due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, schools have been offered flexibility on when to begin delivering these subjects within the 2020/2021 academic year.

Schools that are prepared to deliver teaching in these subjects and have assessed that they meet the requirements in the DfE's '[Relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education](#)' guidance are encouraged to begin delivering teaching as soon as practically possible, and no later than the start of the Summer term in 2021. In these cases, a phased approach should be used (if needed) when introducing the subjects.

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Definition

Relationships and sex education (RSE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of stable and loving relationships, family life, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health (including puberty).

Rationale

Relationships and Sex education (RSE) is an integral part of our Personal, Social, and Health Education programme, which is now statutory in all state-funded primary schools. At Deanwood, we believe that Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and citizenship education help to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens within their communities RSE is an integral part of PSHE and is an intrinsic part of the physical, intellectual and emotional growth of an individual.

Aims

- To provide a secure, sensitive and caring framework where learning and discussion can take place.
- To provide information, which is easy to understand, relevant and appropriate for the needs, age and maturity of the pupils.
- To support children in becoming more comfortable in using the correct vocabulary.
- To foster self-worth and awareness, together with a sense of moral responsibility.
- To help the children to acquire and practise important life skills, such as critical thinking, decision making, communication and assertiveness.

Provision

Sex and Relationship teaching will be delivered via two areas of the curriculum.

1. Through National Curriculum Science programmes of study where children will learn about the physical aspects of growth, change and in Year 6, reproduction.
2. Through the school's PSHE curriculum where children learn about the emotional aspects of growing up and forming meaningful, trusting and safe relationships.

Parental Involvement

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

We believe that effective RSE is an ongoing process, which should start in the home and continue at school. This process should happen in partnership with parents. A positive effort has and will continue to be made to inform and involve parents.

The school's programme of relationships and sex education will be embedded within the school's PSHE curriculum and will help children to respect themselves and others. The programme is tailored to the age, and the physical (and emotional) maturity of the children. It will also be delivered by the pupils' class teacher and invited professionals.

Equal opportunities

Sex education will be available to all children regardless of gender, ability, cultural or religious background, in line with the school's policy on equal opportunities. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all, or part of, any sex education provided. This is after discussion with the head of school and following the school being notified in writing. This withdrawal excludes the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction provided as part of the science curriculum (e.g. puberty and bodily changes). Parents do not have the right to withdraw from any part of relationships education.

Using staff from outside the school

Resources and expertise from appropriate outside agencies may be utilised alongside teaching staff in order to deliver RSE. If this is the case:

- All visitors will be familiar with, and will understand, the school's RSE policy and will work within this;
- All input to RSE lessons will be part of a planned programme and will be negotiated / agreed with staff in advance;
- All visitors will work alongside school staff;
- The input of visitors will be regularly monitored and evaluated in order to inform future planning.

Lesson delivery

In delivering RSE, the following guidelines will apply: •

Discussion will be encouraged at all times;

- Ground rules for discussion, excluding personal questioning of staff or pupils, will be established;
- Staff shall attempt to deal with questions in a sensitive, open and honest manner.

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

- Difficult or explicit questions do not have to be answered directly. Teachers will use their own discretion in these situations;
- Most groups for teaching will be mixed gender but if felt more appropriate, single sex groups may be formed.
- RSE will be taught as part of a spiral based curriculum, to build on their prior learning from other year groups, as they begin to develop.
- RSE lessons will always be taught by the pupils' class teacher so that pupils can develop trusting relationships when discussing sensitive topics.

Child protection

The school has a child protection policy. Effective RSE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and all staff are aware of agreed procedures should this be the case.

Staff support and development

It is appreciated that some staff may feel less comfortable with this area of the curriculum. All staff will be given appropriate training and support and if preferred, alternative staff or visiting professionals may be asked to deliver the curriculum. All teaching staff may also discuss areas of the curriculum with the PSHE subject lead.