



The Oaks Primary School
Bringing Learning to Life

Relationships and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

Intent

At The Oaks Primary School we value the importance of Relationships and Sex Education to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships. RSE can support children to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help and to know where to access support.

Our focus in RSE is the teaching of the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendship, family relationships and relationships with other children and with adults.

To prepare our children for life in the 21st Century, our policy has these aims:

- To reassure children of their value and self-worth, including aspects of dignity, self respect and self-restraint.
- To nurture a responsible attitude towards personal relationships, such as aspects of mutual respect and care.
- To foster the ability to manage relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.
- To promote the value of loving relationships and of family life.
- To provide knowledge of human reproductive processes.
- To inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues.
- To encourage exploration of values and moral issues, taking into account the physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour.
- To educate against discrimination and prejudice.

Implementation

Relationships and Sex Education will be taught from Year One to Year Six by class teachers and HLTA's. Objectives will be taken from The Oaks PSHE Curriculum, which is heavily influenced by the PSHE association. It will also compliment content covered in subjects such as science, computing and PE as well as expanding on human relationships, human and physical development and reproduction in Year Five and Six.

Opportunities will be provided in Year Six for separate lessons on physical changes (puberty), conception and birth. Mixed-gender classes will be the norm for the pupils – except during the puberty lessons in Year Six.

Governors and teachers are in agreement that teachers should answer all children's questions relating to Relationships and Sex Education in an open and factual way, taking into consideration the family background, culture, religious beliefs, and pupils' differing experiences. The Governors expect teachers to use their professional judgement and discretion when faced with, or answering, questions, which they deem to be of a sensitive nature.

The following ground rules have been established:

- Teachers should not enter into discussions about personal issues and lifestyles.

- No one (child or adult) has to answer a personal question.
- Nobody is forced to take part in discussion.
- Care is taken that no child is stigmatised because of his or her home circumstances.
- In discussion, teachers will promote the knowledge and use of accepted names of body parts.
- Meanings of words are explained in a sensible and factual way.
- Where necessary and appropriate, teachers will refer to other school policies including the Child Abuse Policy, Personal, Social and Health Education Policy and Curriculum Policy.

The transition year before pupils move to Secondary School is considered a crucial one at The Oaks Primary School. In Year Six, the children will be taught:

- changes in the body related to puberty, such as menstruation and ejaculation, voice-breaking, spots and body hair (Senses DVD).
- when these changes are likely to happen and what issues could cause young people anxiety and how they can cope.
- how babies are conceived.

Children will also have the chance to take part in an anonymous question and answer session.

Teachers will be mindful of pupils with a special educational need when planning and delivering RSE. High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will be the starting point to ensure accessibility. There may be a need to tailor content and teaching to meet the specific needs of pupils at different developmental stages. As with all teaching, schools should ensure that their teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate and delivered with reference to the law.

Working with Parents

The Oaks Primary School seeks to work in partnership with parents through consultation and support. Parents are vital in teaching children about sex and relationships, maintaining the culture and ethos of the family, helping children to cope with emotional and physical aspects of growing, and preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities that sexual maturity brings.

The school will provide support to parents in helping children learn the accepted names of the body, talking with the children about their feelings and relationships, and answering questions about growing up, having babies and relationships, if requested.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw pupils from some or all of Sex Education as part of statutory RSE but *may not* withdraw the child from Relationships or Health Education. Notification for specific Sex Education lessons, in Year Six, is always sent to parents in advance. If parents wish to withdraw a child from these sessions, they should discuss their concerns with the Head Teacher. In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson, that child is provided with appropriate, challenging work until the Sex Education lesson is over.

Impact

Relationships and Sex education teaches children to develop an awareness of, and respect for, themselves and others. We want our pupils to be able to cope with the challenges of personal growth. Relationships and Sex Education will enable children to be aware of the personal choices they can make and prepare them to make responsible and confident decisions in real life situations.

This policy has been written with consideration given to the DfEs statutory guidelines - The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 - and in consultation with the Head teacher and Governors.

Mrs C Hesketh January 2020 To be reviewed July 2021