

Overview

Relationships and sex education (RSE) is the right and responsibility of the parent.

The school provides sex and relationships education to support parents in fulfilling their responsibility. If parents are not happy with what the school provides in its basic curriculum with regard to sex and relationships education they have a right to withdraw their child/children from those aspects of sex and relationships education not covered by the National Curriculum Science.

Defining Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

It 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.

The Aims of RSE

Based on the above definition the aims of RSE in this school are:

To enable our pupils to better understand the nature of human relationships;

To enable pupils to see the importance of marriage or stable loving relationships for the bringing up of children;

To prepare pupils for the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood.

In this school RSE has three main elements, all of which are important for a balanced SRE programme:

1.attitudes and values:

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas; and
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

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2.personal and social skills:

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict; and learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

3.knowledge and understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay, including the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

Moral dimension

The school recognises that it is a moral body in its own right. As part of the whole curriculum the school seeks to explore issues of right and wrong. The school recognises that RSE is fraught with certain difficulties and whilst it acknowledges different life style choices it promotes a view that stable loving relationships are the best context for sexual relationships and the bringing-up of children.

HNB RSE Policy

Content of the schools RSE programme

The content of the schools programme is based on the JIGSAW PSHE scheme and the non-statutory guidance for PSHE/Ct contained in the National Curriculum Handbook for Teachers.

At primary school level sex and relationship education should contribute to the foundation of PSHE and Citizenship by ensuring that all children:

- develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships;
- are able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work;
- can protect themselves and ask for help and support; and are prepared for puberty.

National Curriculum Science Key Stage 1

1. b) that animals including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce

2. a) to recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans

f) that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults

4. a) to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity

Key Stage 2

1. a) that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction

2. f) about the main stages of the human life cycle

The school recognises that RSE must be taught at both Key Stages and not left until Year 6. Whenever RSE appears in the school's PSHE programme in a discrete fashion the class teacher will inform parents about the issues to be covered and seek their support in exploring these issues in the home context.

The delivery of RSE

All teachers are responsible for teaching about and modelling good relationships within school. Much of the general work in school is based on good relationships and in this regard RSE is supported by the school's Relationships (Behaviour) Policy. It is also the responsibility of the whole staff to deliver the Science Curriculum according to the school's Scheme of Work.

Methods of teaching and resourcing

In the delivery of RSE teachers will use a variety of teaching methods and resources. The following are recognised methods for the effective delivery of RSE:

- Discussion
- Drama and role play
- Research and presentation.
- Thinking tools

Teachers will also use other teaching methods to enable pupils to learn about RSE which are age appropriate, taking into account the developmental needs of individual pupils. Parents are welcome to discuss with teachers their approach to RSE and the methods of teaching and learning to be used.

The school uses a wide variety of resources, including videos and books. Resources used by the school are produced for schools by educational publishers and are intended for pupils in the light of best current research into RSE.

HNB RSE Policy

Monitoring and evaluating RSE

The school will:

- a) Ensure that RSE occurs in the school's curriculum according to the schemes of work for Science and PSHE
- b) Monitor the use of teaching and learning styles;
- c) Monitor the use of teaching materials;
- d) Evaluate the effectiveness of the schools programme

Dealing with sensitive issues

Teachers need to be sure that they are aware of issues that may arise out of teaching and learning about RSE.

The following are protocols for discussion based lessons with pupils:

- no one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question;
- no one will be forced to take part in a discussion;
- only the correct names for body parts will be used;
- meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way; and teachers may use their discretion in responding to questions and may say that the appropriate person to answer that question is the parent.

Where a member of staff is concerned that a child protection issue is arising it is his/her responsibility to follow the school's safeguarding policy in this matter to the letter.

Parental right to withdrawal from SRE

As stated above parents have the right to withdraw their pupils from RSE that falls outside the National Curriculum Science. They do so in writing to the Headteacher. The pupil will be withdrawn from RSE and placed in another class where suitable work and supervision will be provided.

A copy of this policy is available to parents on the school website and upon request.

Date of policy: 2022

Reviewed: 2024, 2025

Next Review September 2026