

Relationships and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

Health Education

Parent Working Party

Questionnaire

New guidance from the Department of Education (DfE) requires all primary schools to teach relationship and health education from September 2020. This is a change to previous years, where it was seen as good practice. Parents have always had the right to withdraw their child from relationship education but with the new guidance in place, they will not. Sex education is still not compulsory for primary aged children but is for secondary aged children. However, life cycles (KS1) and reproduction (KS2) are parts of the Science curriculum. With the new guidance coming into effect this academic year, we are reviewing our policy to best meet the needs of the children at our school. We would very much value your input with this and would appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey below.

Under normal circumstances, once the survey has been completed, we would hold a meeting to discuss the outcomes of the survey with parents and share some of the resources that will be used to deliver the relationships and health curriculum. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the meeting will not be possible but we can provide an overview of the responses from the survey, a curriculum outline and provide parents with links to some of the online resources that will be used. With this in mind, please will you complete the survey below?

1. Would it be helpful to outline what is taught in each year group for all areas of relationships, sex and health education or just certain sensitive areas such as puberty, sex and drug education?

Parents would like a breakdown of all areas of the curriculum in order to support learning at home.

2. Would it be helpful to outline what is taught in regards to life cycles (KS1) and reproduction (KS2) as part of the Science curriculum in the policy?

Parents would find this helpful.

3. Generally, children are reaching puberty earlier than in the past. In order to reflect this, the new guidance suggests that pupils are taught about some of the changes

that happen to bodies in Year 4. As a school, we would like to encourage empathy and understanding in our pupils. We believe that if taught sensitively, pupils can benefit from knowing about puberty earlier so they can understand the changes in either themselves or others. Would you like your child to be educated about some elements of puberty in Year 4? Would it be helpful to know a brief outline of what would be taught?

Parents supported the teaching of this in Y4.

4. We have always chosen to teach an age appropriate level of sex education in Year 6. We have always believed that we would like the children at our school to learn about this in the classroom where they can ask questions in a safe environment rather than hear about it on the playground where the facts may be inaccurate or research it on the internet where the content may be unsuitable. With the new guidance, we have to make a decision whether to continue to teach this in Year 6. Would you like sex education, at a level that is appropriate to the children, to be taught in Year 6? Please give reasons.

All parents believed this was important.

5. Equality and respecting differences is a key message throughout the teaching of RSE including LGBT. As part of relationships education, we would teach that there are many different forms of families and loving relationships, from single parent families to same sex relationships. At no time would we promote any type of relationship but will teach respect for all. If we choose to teach sex education in Year 6, we would focus on making a baby.
Are you happy and comfortable with this? (please add comments if you wish to extend your answer)

All parents supported this.

6. We will always select resources, which are appropriate and suitable for the age of the children we are teaching. Would you like links to electronic resources to be made available, for example on the school website, for sensitive areas, such as puberty and sex education (if chosen to teach)?

Parents would like some resources to be made available.

7. Occasionally, it may be appropriate to use visitors to support our teaching of RSE. These would be checked for suitability and safeguarding procedures adhered to. Would you support the use of visitors?

This was supported. A few parents made a point that the visitor would need to be qualified. As a school, wouldn't use unqualified visitors.

8. To teach puberty and sex education (if chosen to teach) we can choose to teach the children in same sex groups or altogether. Which would you prefer and why?

There was a mixture of responses here. More parents believed that both genders should be educated about puberty for both sexes. A minority felt that children would feel more comfortable in single sex groups. NB. Anonymous question boxes will be used in all Puberty and SRE lessons.

9. If we were to teach sex education, parents would have the right to withdraw their child from the lessons. We would require this in writing and the parents would be invited to a meeting with the head teacher to discuss this decision. Would you support this system?

This system was supported by most parents. The parents who didn't support it did not support the right to withdrawal. The right to withdraw is a national policy so as a school, whilst we do not promote withdrawal, we must provide a channel for parents to do so.