

# Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Fairisle Junior School



<b>Approved by:</b>	Full Governing Body	<b>Date:</b> 2 June 2020
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	2 May 2024	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	2 May 2025	

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## 1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- › Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- › Prepare children for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- › Help children develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- › Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- › Teach children the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

## 2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school, we must provide relationships education to all children as per Section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State as outlined in Section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At Fairisle Junior School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

## 3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, children and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to give their feedback and suggestions online via a Google Form due to Covid-19 restrictions
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly children want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors, reviewed fully and ratified.

## 4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of children, and involves learning about relationships, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

## 5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is described below but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

The content of these units is taught in many subjects across the curriculum and in school life. For example:

- A reading text may cover friendships.
- E-Safety in Computing units may cover respectful online relationships.
- An assembly from a charity may tackle bereavement.
- A PSHE lesson may require children to reflect on the stages in a healthy relationship.
- The NSPCC may deliver workshops on safeguarding for children.
- Children may discuss different types of families when learning French.

- In tackling a discriminatory incident, a teacher may discuss respectful relationships and LGBTQ+ with the class.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, children and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of children. If children ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner, so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born

## 6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Children also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a class teacher however this will also focus on healthy and respectful relationships.

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers among other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

## 7. Roles and responsibilities

### 7.1 The Governing Body

The Governing Body will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

### 7.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw children from non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

### 7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE

- › Monitoring progress
- › Responding to the needs of individual children
- › Responding appropriately to children whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-science components of RSE.

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

The Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum) and the appropriate subject leader(s), are responsible, working with the Senior Leadership Team, for designing and developing the RSE curriculum and supporting classroom delivery. All teachers are responsible for teaching RSE. Teaching Assistants support learning, under the guidance of class teachers, including to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

## **7.4 Children**

Children are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

## **8. Parents' right to withdraw**

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science components of sex education within RSE. At Fairisle Junior School, the only unit we teach that features non-statutory sex education is in Year 6 where the children will learn about conception and pregnancy in an age appropriate manner.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to children who are withdrawn from sex education.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

## **9. Training**

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses if appropriate.

## **10. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Headteacher through activities such as planning scrutinies and learning walks.

Children's development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the appropriate subject leader(s) annually. At every review, the policy will be reviewed and approved by the Governing Body.

## Appendix 1: By the end of primary school children should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability</li> <li>• The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives</li> <li>• That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care</li> <li>• That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up</li> <li>• That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</li> <li>• How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed</li> </ul>
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</li> <li>• The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</li> <li>• That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</li> <li>• That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right</li> <li>• How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs</li> <li>• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• The conventions of courtesy and manners</li> <li>• The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</li> <li>• That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority</li> <li>• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help</li> <li>• What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</li> <li>• The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</li> </ul>
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not</li> <li>• That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous</li> <li>• The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them</li> <li>• How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met</li> <li>• How information and data is shared and used online</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</li><li>• About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe</li><li>• That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact</li><li>• How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know</li><li>• How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult</li><li>• How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard</li><li>• How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so</li><li>• Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources</li></ul>

## Appendix 2: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

Fairisle Junior School  
Parental Notification to Withdraw a Child from  
Sex Education within Relationships and Sex Education



TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	