

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Name of school: Cavendish Close Infant School

This policy takes full account of the school's legal obligations and the latest DfES guidance 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (DfES 0116/2000)

Learning about physical, moral and emotional development is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

In this school Relationship and Sex Education is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum.

We aim to work closely with parents, carers and governors and to create an ethos that will ensure all pupils receive appropriate, accurate and honest answers to their questions about Relationship Education and Sex Education.

1. What is RSE?

The term *relationships and sex education – RSE* – is used in this policy rather than *sex education*. This is to stress that our approach goes beyond provision of biological information to also focus on clarifying attitudes and values, and developing self esteem and the skills to manage relationships.

According to the latest DfES guidance RSE 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'

DfES 'Sex and Relationship Guidance', 2000.

The guidance suggests that RSE should have three main elements as follows:

Knowledge and understanding

- Learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages.
- Understanding human sexuality, sexual health and keeping safe, emotions and relationships.

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.
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making.

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.
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

The schools approach to RSE consists of:

1. The taught RSE programme.
2. Pastoral support for pupils who experience difficulties.
3. Provision of appropriate information through leaflets and books in the library and the displaying of posters.
4. Topics
5. Planned aspects of science
6. Class discussions or circle time
7. Assemblies
8. Visits from the school nurse or members of the NHS teams

2. Why RSE?

Legal obligations

Maintained primary schools in England and Wales have a legal responsibility to provide a 'sex education' programme. They also have a responsibility to keep an up to date written statement of the policy they choose to adopt and this must be available to parents. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from 'sex education' lessons which fall outside those aspects covered in the National Curriculum Science.

The needs of young people and the role of schools

1. To provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve.
2. To promote pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

The DfES 'Sex and Relationship Guidance' (2000) recommends that 'Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives'. The school has a key role, in partnership with parents/carers, in providing RSE.

3. Morals and Values Framework

Our approach to RSE will be conducted within a clear morals and values framework based on the following principles:

- The value of stable and loving relationships.
- Respect, understanding and empathy towards others who may have different backgrounds, cultures, sexuality, feelings and views.
- The development of relationships, including sexual relationships, based on mutual consent, rather than coercion.
- The right not to be abused by other people or be taken advantage of.
- The right of people to follow their own sexuality, within legal parameters.

We also believe that pupils have an entitlement to:

- Age and circumstance appropriate RSE.
- Access to help from trusted adults and helping services.

RSE involves consideration of a number of sensitive issues about which different people may hold strong and varying views. The school's approach to RSE will be balanced and take account of, and be sensitive to, different viewpoints but will not be based on personal bias. We shall endeavour to have an approach that is educational, rather than one based on propaganda.

4. Equal Opportunities

Young people may have varying needs regarding RSE depending on their circumstances and background. The school strongly believes that all pupils should have access to RSE that is relevant to their particular needs. To achieve this, the school's approach to RSE will take account of:

The needs of boys as well as girls Girls tend to have greater access to RSE than boys, both through the media (particularly magazines) and the home. We will consider the particular needs of boys, as well as girls, and approaches that will actively engage them. We shall also be proactive in combating sexism and sexist bullying.

Ethnic and cultural diversity Different ethnic and cultural groups may have different attitudes to RSE. The school will consult pupils and parents/carers about their needs, take account of their views and promote respect for, and understanding of, the views of different ethnic and cultural groups.

Varying home backgrounds We recognise that our pupils may come from a variety of family situations and home backgrounds. We shall take care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances.

Sexuality On average, about 5% of our pupils will go on to define themselves as gay, lesbian or bi-sexual (GLB). Students may also have GLB parents/carers, brothers or sisters, other family members and/or friends. All our pupils will go on to meet and work with GLB people. Our approach to RSE will include sensitive, honest and balanced consideration of sexuality. We shall actively tackle homophobic bullying.

Special educational needs We shall take account of the fact that some pupils may have learning, emotional or behavioural difficulties or physical disabilities that result in particular RSE needs.

5. The Taught SRE Programme

The RSE programme will be delivered as part of the school's approach to PSHE and Citizenship.

Aims of the programme

- To offer all pupils a planned program of education about human development, relationships, sexuality and family life which is developmental and appropriate to the age and maturity of the child.
- To teach sexuality within a moral framework emphasising stable relationships and family life.
- To encourage pupils to develop a positive attitude to all body functions.
- To help children understand that they have rights over their bodies.
- To help pupils recognise peer social pressure and boost self-esteem.

Content and learning objectives

The RSE programme is delivered in a developmental manner so that issues are explored in greater depth as students mature. See Appendix for Spiral Curriculum.

Methodology and resources

Active learning methods which involve children's full participation will be used. This includes use of quizzes, case studies, research, role play, video, small group discussion and use of appropriate guest speakers.

Relationships and sex education takes place within mixed sex classes with the pupils' usual class teacher. Should a teacher be absent it would not be undertaken by a short-term supply teacher.

Teaching is conducted in a safe learning environment through the use of ground rules and distancing techniques so that pupils are not put on the spot or expected to discuss their own personal issues in class. Teaching resources are selected on the basis of their appropriateness to pupils.

Ground rules and distancing techniques

Teachers are careful to ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes do not influence the teaching of sex and relationships. To this end ground rules have been agreed to provide a common values framework within which to teach. There are clear parameters as to what will be taught in whole class setting and what will be dealt with on an individual basis.

- Pupils will be given preparation so that they will know how to minimise any embarrassment they feel.
- No one (teacher or pupil) should be expected 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.

Answering difficult questions

Sometimes an individual child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered and can be addressed later. This school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in these situations and refer to the PSHE/Citizenship Co-ordinator concerned.

Dealing with questions

- Teachers should establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting.
- Teachers should set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way and ensuring that pupils discuss issues in a way which does not encourage giggling and silliness.
- Pupils should be encouraged to write down questions anonymously and post them in a question box, the teacher will have time to prepare answers to all questions before the next session, and will choose not to respond to any questions which are inappropriate.
- If a verbal question is too personal the teacher should remind the pupils of the ground rules.
- If a question is too explicit, feels too old for a pupil, is inappropriate for the whole class, or raises concerns about sexual abuse, the teacher should acknowledge it and promise to attend to it later on an individual basis.
- Teachers should not be drawn into providing more information than is appropriate to the age of the child.
- If a teacher is concerned that a pupil is at risk of sexual abuse the Head teacher should be informed and the usual child protection procedures followed.

Pupils will:

- listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher;
- be encouraged to ask questions in order to further develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes;
- ask for further help if they do not understand;
- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the school;
- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys

Monitoring and evaluation

The programme is regularly evaluated by the RSE co-ordinator. The views of students and teachers who deliver the programme are used to make changes and improvements to the programme on an ongoing basis.

Parental concerns and withdrawal of students

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from dedicated 'sex education' lessons. They do not have a right to withdraw their children from those aspects of RSE that are taught in National Curriculum Science or where RSE issues arise incidentally in other subject areas.

We will work in active partnership with parents/carers, value their views and keep them informed about our RSE provision. If a parent/carer has any concerns about the RSE provision we will take time to address their concerns and allay any fears they may have. If any parents/carers decide to withdraw their child we shall work with them and their child to explore possible alternative provision.

Pastoral Support for Pupils who experience difficulties

The nature of support available to pupils

The school takes its role in the promotion of pupil wellbeing seriously. Staff endeavour to make themselves approachable and to provide caring and sensitive support for pupils in a number of ways. Staff may be approached for help on an individual basis. They offer a listening ear and, where appropriate, information and advice. The school nurse offers a health and support service to pupils. Where appropriate, pupils are referred to the school nurse and/or outside helping agencies. The school will keep up to date about the development of local services and national help lines for young people and form working relationships with local agencies that are relevant to pupil needs.

Confidentiality and informing parents/carers

School staff cannot promise absolute confidentiality if approached by a pupil for help. Staff must make this clear to pupils. Child protection procedures must be followed when any disclosures about abuse are made.

Dealing with bullying

Bullying commonly includes inappropriate and hurtful comments and behaviours concerning sexism, homophobia, appearance and other sex/relationship issues. The school takes the issue of bullying very seriously in line with Pupil Support Circular 10/99. This is reflected in the school's anti-bullying policy. Staff will challenge and deal sensitively with any evidence of bullying. Pupils will be encouraged to report any incidents. Staff will endeavour to investigate any incidents of bullying as soon as possible and give feedback to pupils who complain of bullying. The RSE and PSHE programmes will consider bullying and aim to discourage bullying based on sexism, homophobia, appearance and other sex/relationship issues.

Policy Change History Sheet

Policy title:		
Review Date	Section	Summary of change
20/10/11		No change
2/10/12		No change
10/10/13		No change
9/1/15		Pupils/schools approach to RSE/schools aims updated.
7/10/15		No change
5/10/16		No Change
13/2/18		No Change

20/10/18		No Change

Appendix 1. Sequence for teaching Relationship and Sex Education

Foundation Stage

- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other people.
- To know that humans can produce babies and that these babies grow into children and then adults.
- To know that animals, including humans, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- To learn about their own and each others family experiences.

Year 1

- People in my life – what they do for me and what I do for them.
- My moods – feeling happy, sad, lonely...
- Friendships
- Loss and mourning – a person, a pet.
- Keeping safe – dangers I might come up against and saying no.
- My body and other people's bodies – similarities and differences.
- The beginning of life – me, animals and plants.
- Ageing – how we know things are alive, dead, young or old.

Year 2

- Changes as we grow.
- Different types of families.
- Feelings in the family – love, jealousy...

- What helps people to get along with each other – listening, sharing...
- What makes us happy.
- What I like or don't like about other people.
- What other people like or don't like about me.
- Keeping safe.
- Caring for myself – hygiene, sleep, exercise.
- People who help me to care for myself.
- Inside my body – the functions of different parts.