

## RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

**Staff Lead:** Rachel Moxley  
**Review Date:** March 2022

March 2021



### Aims

RSE education offers our pupils significant opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to achieve, to be resilient and to lead lives that are safe, confident, happy, healthy, responsible and independent. It aims to help them to understand how they are developing personally, socially and emotionally and to explore a range of attitudes and values. RSE education provides children with a safe learning environment to develop and practice the skills necessary to manage the moral, social and cultural challenges and responsibilities that are part of growing up and living in the world. We are committed to safeguarding all children and our provision for teaching RSE supports this commitment. We provide children with the opportunity to learn about healthy relationships, respect for themselves and where to seek help if needed. We aim to equip children with the knowledge and skills to make safe positive decisions through life. We place the emphasis upon relationships, supporting pupils understanding and skill in developing positive and healthy relationships.

At Dovers Green we teach children about:

- respectful relationships and respecting others;
- healthy relationships including online safety and where to seek help;
- being responsible for relationships with family, friends, school and the wider community;
- being self-respecting and being in control of their own bodies;
- scientific anatomical names for parts of the body;

The teaching of RSE will:

- be developmental and be appropriate to the age and stage of the child, not assuming that all starting points are the same;
- put forward factual knowledge and encourage the exploration of facts;
- examine opinions and concepts and encourage discussion;
- be part of the wider PSHE curriculum, including School Values and British Values.

### Statutory Requirements

This Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy is based on DfE guidance June 2019 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education', which is statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002. It is our statutory requirement to provide Relationships Education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017. 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. We are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the parts of the science National Curriculum relating to humans and growth.

At Dovers Green School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

## **Policy Development**

This policy has been developed in consultation with school leadership, staff and governors. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps: 1. Review - a member of staff 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 consultation - parents were given details about the RSE curriculum, drop-in sessions were held and the policy shared 4. Ratification - once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

## **Definitions**

From September 2020, all primary schools are required by the government to teach Relationships and Health Education. Relationships Education is defined as teaching pupils about the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and adults. Health Education is defined as teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing, focusing on recognising the link between the two and being able to make healthy lifestyle choices. The legislation states that all primary schools are required to teach Relationship Education and, where appropriate, Sex Education. The teaching of Sex Education in primary schools remains non-statutory, with the exception of the elements of sex education contained in the science national curriculum. The content covered in Health Education will overlap with some of the content taught through Relationships Education, RSE and the science curriculum as well as other subjects, so this will reinforce content and concepts for the children. For instance, the National Curriculum for science in key stage 1 includes learning that animals, including humans, produce offspring, which grow into adults, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body.

## **Curriculum**

At Dovers Green, we have been delivering Relationships Education and Health Education within our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum for many years. We have reviewed our PSHE curriculum to make sure that our lessons meet the requirements that the government has set out for the content of Relationships and Health Education. Our curriculum takes into account the age, needs and feelings of our children. If children ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an age appropriate manner.

### **Children learn:**

- to understand the concept of male and female and know that there are physical differences and similarities between boys and girls
- to identify feelings which affect others and which we must learn to deal with
- to label the different parts of the human body and identify those that we keep private
- about the human life cycle
- to celebrate differences in family relationships
- to begin to recognise possible threats to personal safety: safe and unsafe feelings in their bodies and how to resolve this, e.g. tell an adult. This also includes potential dangers on the internet, bullying and in the outside world.

## **Delivery of RSE**

At Dovers Green we use the 3D PSHE scheme of work; including a series of story-based lessons designed to teach children in the CoIN and EYFS. The units of study are inclusive and representative of relationships and family structures in modern Britain and should promote tolerance and acceptance, in line with British values. We teach RSE through our PSHE curriculum, where appropriate through our science and RE curriculum; and it is fully embedded throughout the curriculum via:

- themed topics
- discrete lessons
- assemblies
- use of external visitors
- circle time
- commando Joe sessions

## **Equal Opportunities**

Dovers Green is committed to the provision of RSE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. We have flexibility in determining how we teach and deliver Relationships Education. To ensure children with lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT+) family members feel represented through the school environment and the curriculum; we endeavour to use resources that feature a range of families and relationships. This encourages understanding, acceptance and respect of different relationships from a young age. Children need support in understanding the world in which they are growing up, which means understanding that some people are LGBT and that this should be respected in British society. Children growing up in families with LGBT members should feel that Relationships Education and RSE is relevant to them. We recognise that parents are their child's first educator and that the primary role in children's Relationships and Sex Education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- inform parents about the school's RSE programme and policy, on an annual basis;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the Relationship and Sex Education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for RSE in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary;

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school.

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Using accurate Scientific vocabulary when teaching science

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.

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

### **Confidentiality and Advice**

All RSE lessons are taught in a sensitive manner respecting the needs of all children. Our school will develop ground rules for lessons promoting a positive supportive learning environment. RSE lessons may lead to a disclosure from a child and if this is the case, staff are to follow our safeguarding/child protection policy informing one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL). DSLs are trained in all aspects of child abuse and the necessary procedures that must be followed. (Please see the Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Policy).

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

Both formal and informal RSE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the DSL if they are concerned.

### **Parents' Right to Withdraw**

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education. As an infant school, we only offer statutory RSE education. Therefore, parents do not have the right to withdraw from the curriculum we offer for RSE.

### **Training**

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part our continuing professional development calendar.

### **Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored the PSHE lead through:

Learning walks, pupil voice, staff feedback, book looks and planning monitoring.

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

This policy will be reviewed every two years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.

### **Policy Links**

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with our School Aims and the following policies: Personal, Social & Health Education, Science, Anti-Bullying, Child Protection & Safeguarding, Equality & Diversity, Inclusion, Assessment, PE, Early Years Foundation and SEND.