



# Relationships and Sex Education Policy

DETAILS OF POLICY	
Original policy created by:	Emma Johnson
Date of most recent review:	September 2020
Reason for review:	Update
Adopted by:	SLT
Parties communicated to:	All stakeholders
Methods of Communication:	School intranet, induction, website
Next planned review date:	September 2022
Persons responsible for audit review of policy:	Senior Leadership Group

## **Aims and Rationale**

To enjoy a successful and happy adult life, pupils need to be able to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives, and healthy relationships are central to many of them. The way we teach these subjects can help support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

## **Statutory requirements**

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the government committed to making relationships education (primary) and relationships and sex education (secondary) statutory in all schools, including LA maintained schools, academies, free schools and independent schools. All schools are required to have age-appropriate relationships and sex education and policy in place by September 2020.

## **Definition**

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at whatever age, is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up as well as how to form healthy relationships with others, as you get older (secondary age) this also includes sexual relationships, human sexuality and sexual health. It should equip all children and young people with the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships with others, and for secondary age pupils to enjoy their sexuality and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.

## **Delivery**

RSE is taught within the school's personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. At Switched2 we believe that good quality RSE is an entitlement for all children and young people and we ensure that:

- RSE will be an identifiable part of our PSHE education curriculum, which has planned, timetabled lessons across all the key stages.
- RSE will be taught by staff who are members of the PSHE Association and follow national curriculum and undertake regular continuing professional development (CPD).
- We will work in partnership with parents and carers', informing them about what their children will be learning and about how they can contribute at home.
- We will deliver lessons where pupils feel safe and encourage participation by using a variety of teaching approaches with opportunities to ask questions.
- The information will be based on reliable sources of information including the law and legal rights.
- We will promote safe, equal, caring and enjoyable relationships and discuss real-life issues appropriate to the age and stage of pupils, including friendships, families, consent, relationship abuse, sexual exploitation and safe relationships online.
- We will give a positive view of human sexuality, with accurate information, so that pupils can learn about their bodies and sexual and reproductive health in ways that are appropriate to their age and maturity.
- We will give pupils opportunities to reflect on values and influences (such as from peers, media, faith and culture) that may shape their attitudes to relationships and sex, and nurture respect for different views.
- We will include learning about how to access health and advice services, including reliable information online.
- We will discuss gender equality and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans) equality and challenge all forms of discrimination in lessons and everyday school life.
- We will meet the needs of all pupils with their diverse experiences, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.
- We will seek pupil views about RSE so that teaching can be made relevant to their real lives and assess and adapt as their needs change.

## Roles and Responsibilities

*The Headteacher* - The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE.

*THE PSHE Coordinator* - The PSHE Coordinator is responsible for ensuring taught content is age appropriate, accurate and up-to-date and will work with all staff to ensure they have support in designing and delivering SRE activities.

*Staff* - Staff are responsible for:

Delivering RSE in a sensitive and age-appropriate way

Modelling positive attitudes to RSE in all aspects of the school's practices

Responding to the needs of individual pupils

Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory 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.

*Pupils* - Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity. This response is in line with our core values of maintaining a positive attitude, respect for others at all times and displaying high levels of commitment.

### **The right to withdraw**

Parents' and carers' have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of RSE. Parents can identify when RSE is being covered by referring to the school website. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. 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. Appropriate alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE.

After discussions the school can agree to parents' / carers' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive Relationships and Sex Education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.

### **Training**

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE and meet on a regular basis with the PSHE lead each term during directed time, on INSET days and during CPD twilight sessions. The school will also invite visitors from outside the school to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

### **Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Headteacher through lesson observation and discussions with staff and pupils. Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers through the use of end of topic assessments, but is not formally assessed using the 9-1 grading system used by some other schools. This policy will be reviewed every two years by the The Headteacher and School Leadership Team.