**Bridgemere CE Primary**

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Relationships and sex Education policy

**Confirmation that the Relationships and sex education policy has been discussed and approved by the Staff and Governing Body**

February 2023

To be reviewed February 2025

**Contents**

[1. Aims 3](#_Toc11230567)

[2. Statutory requirements 3](#_Toc11230568)

[3. Policy development 4](#_Toc11230569)

[4. Definition 4](#_Toc11230570)

[5. Curriculum 5](#_Toc11230571)

[6. Delivery of RSE 5](#_Toc11230572)

[7. Roles and responsibilities 6](#_Toc11230573)

[8. Parents’ right to withdraw 7](#_Toc11230574)

[9. Training 7](#_Toc11230575)

[10. Monitoring arrangements 7](#_Toc11230576)

[Appendix 1: Curriculum map 8](#_Toc11230577)

[Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know 9](#_Toc11230578)

[Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know 11](#_Toc11230579)

[Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE 14](#_Toc11230580)

**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 pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
* Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
* Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
* Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

**2. Statutory requirements**

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017.](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/section/34/enacted)

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](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/relationships-and-sex-education-and-health-education) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996.](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents)

At Bridgemere CE Primary we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

**3. Policy development**

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils 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 attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

**4. Definition**

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, 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 set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We are adopting the Christopher Winters Programme alongside with No Outsiders and the Stonewall resources.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils 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

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

**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).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

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

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

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 amongst 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 board**

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and holds 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 pupils from non-statutory 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 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.

Those teaching RSE at Bridgemere CE Primary are:

Miss Slater / Miss O’Leary – class teacher

Mr Lyons – class teacher

Miss Latham – class teacher

Mrs Willington – class teacher

Mrs Middleton – Headteacher

**7.4 Pupils**

Pupils 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-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher.

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

**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 or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

**10. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by through:

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

This policy will be reviewed by Caroline Middleton, Headteacher bi annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved The Governing Body.

**Appendix 1: Curriculum map**

**Relationships and sex education curriculum map**

| Year group | Term | Topic/theme details  | Resources |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reception |  | Family and Friendship |  |
| Year 1 |  | Growing and caring for ourselves  |  |
| Year 2 |  | Differences |  |
| Year 3 |  | Valuing differences and keeping safe  |  |
| Year 4 |  | Changes |  |
| Year 5 |  | Puberty |  |
| Year 6 |  | Puberty, relationships and reproduction  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know**

| Topic | Pupils should know |
| --- | --- |
| Families and people who care about me | That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stabilityThe 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 livesThat 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 careThat 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 upThat marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelongHow to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed |
| Caring friendships | How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friendsThe characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficultiesThat healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excludedThat 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 rightHow 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 |
| Respectful relationships | 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 beliefsPractical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationshipsThe conventions of courtesy and mannersThe importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happinessThat 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 authorityAbout different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get helpWhat a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructiveThe importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults |
| Online relationships | That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are notThat 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 anonymousThe rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report themHow to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never metHow information and data is shared and used online |
| Being safe | What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)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 safeThat each person’s body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contactHow to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not knowHow to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adultHow to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heardHow to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do soWhere to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources |

**Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE**

| 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 |  |
|  |  |