



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

1. Date of Policy: June 2014

This policy was developed in response to Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfES 2000, the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and National Healthy Schools Programme.

2. The Consultation Process Has Involved:

- Consultation with pupils
- Consultation meeting with parents / carers
- Review of RSE curriculum content with staff
- Consultation with wider school community - Headteacher attended training with Local Authority
- Consultation, agreement and implementation of policy by school governors

What Is Relationship and Sex Education?

RSE is lifelong learning about emotional, social, physical, sexual and moral development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. It should equip children and young people with the information, skills and values to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships and to take responsibility for their health and well-being.

Rationale

Every child has the right to reliable information that they can understand (UNICEF Article 17). Governments must protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation (UNICEF Article 34).

At Witton Gilbert Primary School, we believe that the teaching of Relationship and Sex education should be sensitively delivered at an age appropriate level. We believe the parents are the primary educators of RSE and we aim to work in partnership.

In addition, Witton Gilbert Primary School believes that RSE should:

- be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- be an entitlement for all pupils in our care.
- encourage every pupil to contribute to the school community that aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of diversity.
- encourage pupils and staff to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on personal matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.

- recognise that parents and carers are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers and pupils, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with other health and education professionals.

Aims

The aim of RSE is to provide balanced factual information about physical and emotional changes, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our RSE programme aims to prepare pupils for an adult life in which they can:

- have an understanding of rights and a respect for rights
- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour.
- have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within personal relationships.
- avoid being pressured into uncomfortable or dangerous situations.
- communicate effectively by developing the appropriate language for sex and relationship issues.
- develop awareness of their sexuality, challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves in a variety of situations.
- know how to keep themselves safe on the internet and when using social media.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access advice and support if necessary.
- understand the changes that will happen as they go through puberty.
- know age appropriate facts about sex and reproduction.
- be able to distinguish between fact and fiction.

RSE Curriculum and Organisation

Relationship and Sex Education in this school has three main elements:

Personal and Social Skills

- managing emotions within relationships confidently and sensitively.
- developing positive self esteem and confidence.
- developing and demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others.
- developing an understanding of rights and respect for rights
- making informed choices with an absence of prejudice.
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- managing conflict.
- empowering pupils with the skills to be able to recognise inappropriate/ uncomfortable situations and/or behaviours with their peers and adults.

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices.
- valuing family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage.
- learning about the nurture of children.
- demonstrating the values of respect, love and care.
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
- developing skills including negotiation and decision making.
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions.

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding about physical and emotional development at appropriate stages.
- learning about reproduction, human sexuality, personal health, emotions and relationships.
- learning about where to go for help or advice in school and how to access a range of local and national support agencies

At Witton Gilbert Primary School, we deliver relationship and sex education through our PSHCE Programme, RE and Science lessons at foundation stage, KS1 and KS2. Many aspects of relationships education are also delivered through assemblies and informally during class discussions. Relationships education is underpinned by our work on UNICEF Rights Respecting Charter.

Teachers generally deliver the PSHCE curriculum with support from professionals where appropriate. School staff are usually the best people to work with the pupils on many of the RSE topics as they are aware of each pupil's individual circumstances. RSE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHCE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also taught as part of National Curriculum Science and RSE. The PSHCE Programme and Science National Curriculum are taught in every year.

To further support RSE, our school uses 'Lucinder and Godfrey' resources. The whole school have a focus week each year (usually summer term), where these resources are used to develop children's understanding in an age appropriate way. If parents would like to see the resources, please let us know. Topics for each year group are as follows:

Reception	Recognise and name feelings Know we are all different Name body parts
Year 1	Exploring friendship and trust Name body parts
Year 2	Personal hygiene Making the right choices
Year 3	Personal safety and decision making
Year 4	Keeping safe – dealing with peer pressure
Year 5	Growing and changing - puberty
Year 6	Growing and changing – changing relationships, reproduction

- Prior to our RSE focus week, parents will be informed by letter so that they can discuss content of the RSE curriculum before the work done in school.
- Any RSE lesson may consider questions or issues that some pupils will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson.
- The correct medical names will be used when naming body parts.
- When pupils ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly at an age appropriate level and within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. If it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the age and development of the rest of the pupils, the question will be dealt with individually at another time or discussed with parents.
- More expert or specialist teachers may support staff that are uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the SRE curriculum. Support and professional development will be provided for these staff, so that they can develop their confidence in delivering the whole of the SRE programme.
- Assessment is carried out at appropriate times and involves teacher, pupil and peer assessment of knowledge and understanding, skills, and attitudes.

Inclusion

Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Groups

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic, cultural and religious groups. We encourage parents /carers to discuss any concerns with the Head teacher.

Pupils with Special Needs

We will ensure that all pupils receive relationship and sex education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the needs of all our pupils, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Pupils, whatever their developing sexuality, need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

Right of Withdrawal of Pupils from Relationship and Sex Education

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the relationship and sex education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their concerns and / or decisions with the Head teacher at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any RSE resources the school uses.

Confidentiality and Safeguarding

It should be made clear to pupils that all adults in school cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. This should be made clear when forming the class Ground Rules.

A child under 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity. Any offence under The Sexual Offences Act 2003 involving a child under 13 is very serious and should be taken to indicate a risk of significant harm to the child. Cases involving under 13's should always be discussed with the nominated child protection lead.

Under the Sexual Offences Act, penetrative sex with a child under the age of 13 is classed as rape. Therefore, in all cases where the sexually active young person is under 13, a referral should be made to First Contact identifying the young person, and the sexual partner if known. Following this, a Strategy Meeting or discussion will be held. The meeting will involve a Team Manager, Social Worker, Police, Health Worker, Education and Welfare and other relevant agencies, to discuss appropriate next steps.

Where the allegation concerns penetrative sex, or other intimate sexual activity occurs, there would always be reasonable cause to suspect that a child, whether girl or boy, is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. All cases involving under 13's should be fully documented including detailed reasons why decisions were made not to share information.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct but have a duty to share information with relevant others, if they believe that a child is suffering abuse.

These procedures should be read in conjunction with the Durham LSCB protection procedures ([link](#)) with special reference to Sections 3 'Referral and Investigation' and Section 6.13 'Sexually Active Children under 18' – 'Young People under the age of 13'

Monitoring and Evaluation of Relationship and Sex Education

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher/ Leadership Team to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHCE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. The PSHCE programme will be treated as a subject and will be involved in a yearly monitoring and evaluation.

The Governing body is responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the relationship and sex education policy and curriculum.

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's sex and relationship education policy, curriculum and on support and staff development, CPD and delivery.

Head teacher signature.....

Governor signature.....

Pupil Representative signature.....

Date