



Lodge Farm Primary School

Policy for RSE

Reviewed: September 2022
Next review: September 2023

What is RSE?

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is part of lifelong learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. RSE throughout school life aims to give children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitive relationships and staying safe both on and offline. It enables pupils to explore their own and others attitudes and values and aims to help build their self-esteem and confidence.

External Guidance:

Before this development, the Department for Education's guidance to schools on Relationships and Sex Education was last updated in 2000, and it clearly no longer accurately reflects the world we live in. The new guidance was finalised and passed into law by Parliament in 2019.

This policy is written in view of the Secretary of State's Guidance on RSE (published 5th April 2019), the revised Department for Education statutory guidance states that from September 2020, all schools must deliver relationships education (in primary schools) and relationships and sex education (in secondary schools).

Parental Rights:

During each review of our RSE curriculum, parents will be consulted, along with staff and children (where appropriate).

Schools will engage and consult with parents/carers when developing and reviewing their curriculum for Relationships Education, Sex Education and Health Education. Parents/carers are encouraged to take up the opportunities when they are offered.

Schools may consult parents/carers in different ways, so you may be invited to a consultation meeting or to give your views through surveys, for example. There will be opportunities to find out the content that is in the curriculum, to see examples of materials the school will use and to ask questions and share any concerns with the RSE Subject Lead.

Schools will listen to parent/carer views, but they must deliver the statutory curriculum content. Parent/carer consultation does not provide the power to veto curriculum content. Exactly how the curriculum is taught is ultimately a decision for the school.

Parents will continue to have a right to request to withdraw their child from **sex education** delivered as part of RSE in primary schools which will be granted.

Q. Can I request my child be excused from Relationships Education?

A. No. Parents/carers will not be able to request that their child/ren be excused from any part of Relationships Education. Relationships Education at primary school as the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

Q. Can I request my child be excused from Health Education?

A. No. Parents will not be able to request that their child/ren be excused from Health Education. Health Education includes the teaching of the correct terminology for body parts and learning about the changing adolescent body in a timely way to ensure children are prepared for changes they will experience before they happen.

Q. Can I request my child be excused from the Sex Education curriculum?

A. Yes. Parents/carers will be able to request that their child be excused from those parts of lessons that are defined as 'sex education' in the school's RSE policy (See implementation and content section -Christian Winter project). Parents/carers cannot request their child be excused from any sex education covered in the science curriculum.

Parents/carers should note that the science curriculum- outlined on the school's website - includes discussion about human reproduction. Discussion of sex within relationships education, therefore, provides opportunities to set this learning in the context of meaningful relationships, personal values, health and safety. It is hoped

that when parents/carers have opportunities to find out more about what will be taught and how, very few parents/carers will want to do this. Parents/carers requesting to excuse their child from sex education will be invited to discuss their concerns with a member of staff and asked to specify which particular aspects of sex education content they wish to withdraw their child from.

Anyone wishing to withdraw their child is asked to make that request in writing to the PSHE subject lead (Miss Watson).

1) Curriculum vision and aims:

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks, which is why the RSE curriculum at Lodge Farm addresses sexual harassment, online abuse and sexual violence. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

The teaching of Relationship and Sex Education at Lodge Farm Primary School, using an integrated and consistent approach, is an important aspect of pupils' education. Relationship and Sex Education includes supporting young people in developing self-confidence in preparing for physical and emotional changes into adulthood and is a vital in terms of safeguarding. Safeguarding risks (including online risks) issues of consent and what constitutes a healthy relationship are covered within the curriculum. We believe that the teaching of Relationship, Sex and Health Education should be shared with parents and be mutually supportive and complementary.

In this document, Relationship and Sex Education relates to 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development.' It is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care and promoting the British value of tolerance. We do not use Relationship and Sex Education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

The policy has been developed to ensure that staff and parents or carers are clear about the statutory requirements regarding Relationship and Sex Education, and that the pupils receive their educational entitlement. Through implementation of this policy, the school will meet specific aspects of the legal and statutory requirements. Every child is entitled to receive Relationship and Sex Education. It is our intention that all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of Relationship and Sex Education at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required.

The Relationship and Sex Education programme will reflect Lodge Farm's ethos, where all are valued and positive relationships are seen as important. We teach Relationship and Sex Education in the context of the school's aims and values framework. We do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all work in school. In particular, we teach Relationship and Sex Education with the beliefs that:

- RSE should be taught in the context of loving relationships and family life;
- RSE is part of a wider personal, social, spiritual and moral education process;
- Children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies;
- Children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity;
- It is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect;
- Children need to learn the importance of self-control.

Taking account of the age, maturity and needs of the pupils, Relationship and Sex Education Pupils will be taught RSE within the PSHE Association framework. This models and encourages the following values:

- Being honest
- Learning to show tolerance, understanding, respect and care for others

- Acknowledging the rights and responsibilities involved in sexual relationship
- Developing an awareness and belief in one's own identity
- Having a positive attitude towards the value of stable relationships for the upbringing of children
- Acknowledging and understanding diversity
- Promotes equality and values difference
- Helps pupils understand how their actions can impact on their health, wellbeing and safety
- Foster respect for themselves and others
- Educates pupils about positive relationships
- Meet the needs of pupils to prepare them for life living and working in Britain
- Providing the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled;
- Help children to develop feelings of self-respect, self-esteem, self-confidence, sympathy and empathy;
- Provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others;
- Prepare pupils for puberty and encourage them to take responsibility for their own actions;
- Give children an understanding of reproduction and sexual development;
- Give children an understanding of the importance of health and hygiene;
- Give children an understanding of what healthy and positive relationships looks like;
- Give children with tools and strategies for risk management in terms of keeping themselves safe and sexual exploitation;
- Develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media;
- Teach children to respect and care for their bodies;
- Answer pupils' questions honestly and sensitively – referring the children to parents where appropriate;
- Give children information on where individuals and families can get help and support

3) Intent and Implementation:

At Lodge Farm Primary School, we focus on teaching RSE in the context of relationships. Biological aspects are taught as part of National Curriculum science lessons. Since Sex and Relationships Education incorporates the development of self-esteem and relationships, pupils' learning does not just take place through the taught curriculum, but through all aspects of school life including the playground. It is important then that all staff understand that they have a responsibility to implement this policy and promote the aims of the school at any time they are dealing with children.

As much as possible, we provide an interactive learning environment that is motivating and allows pupils to practise skills through a range of teaching strategies and scenario based learning. We also allow time for reflection and allow children to ask questions in a safe and non-judgmental environment. RSE sessions always take place in a safe environment to allow effective learning to take place. All sessions have clear aims and learning outcomes.

Information is given to parents via the school website regarding curriculum topics being covered in year group each term; this includes PSHE/RSE topics.

What are the key themes that will be taught in Relationships Education in primary school?

- Being safe
- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships.

What values underpin Relationships Education?

- The core values include:
- The importance of stable loving relationships
- Right, responsibilities and law
- Respect for all
- Kindness
- Generosity
- Honesty
- Equality

4) Planning and delivery of the curriculum:

This delivery of the RSE curriculum will usually be carried out by the class teacher. Visitors may also contribute to the curriculum, but we will always ensure their messages and approaches are in line with the school values and policy. For safeguarding reasons, when teaching RSE, there must be two Lodge Farm staff present.

As a school, we use the Christian Winter project for supporting the teaching of high quality RSE. This resource provides step by step lesson plans along with high quality resources to give teachers the confidence to teach SRE and to ensure that relevant objectives are being covered in an age appropriate way whilst protecting both the children and members of staff.

5) Impact

At Lodge Farm, we believe that every child should have the opportunity, whilst in our care, to be equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to enable them to cope with the physical and emotional challenges they face through growing up. The impact of our RSE curriculum encourages them to develop a considerate and caring attitude to themselves, each other and to society.

6) Equality and Inclusion

In line with our inclusion ethos in school, reasonable adjustments will be made for children with special educational needs or disabilities and due regard will be given to religious and cultural requirements. Under the provisions of the Equality Act, schools must not unlawfully discriminate against pupil because of a protected characteristic.

7) Assessment

Evaluation and assessment including self-assessment are an integral part of RSE. Assessment of pupils' personal development will be incorporated into PSHE assessment in line with the school policy (See PSHE policy). PSHE progress is communicated to parents in parent consultations and via an annual report to parents/carers.

8) Monitoring

The PSHE lead will carry out a pupil voice survey to indicate the pupils' understanding of RSE and evaluate the methods used to teach them. The PSHE subject lead will monitor and evaluate planning and teaching of RSE lessons.

Records of any parent complaints and feedback will be reviewed termly.

The **governing body** will:

1. Monitor parental, staff and pupil involvement in the development of the RSE curriculum
2. Seek the advice of the Headteacher and RSE lead on this policy, keep it up to date and make it available to parents
3. Ensure that RSE is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals, the value of family life and the relationships

The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- Both staff and parents are informed about our Relationship and Sex Education policy
- The governing body is advised about the nature and organisation of RSE and how it reflects the aims and values of the school
- Members of staff, including the RSE Lead are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- This policy is monitored on a regular basis and reports to governors on the effectiveness of the policy
- All safeguarding issues are dealt with in line with the schools child protection and safeguarding policy

The **subject lead** will ensure that:

- Both staff and parents are informed about our Relationship and Sex Education policy
- Members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- RSE is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals, the value of family life and relationships
- Teachers have access to appropriate resources and planning for the teaching of RSE
- Monitor the implementation, planning and teaching of an agreed scheme of work
- Monitor assessments of PSHE and RSE
- Meet with parents who have questions and/or concerns relating to the teaching of RSE

Staff who teach RSE are expected to:

- Provide RSE in accordance with this policy and in a way which encourages pupils to consider morals and the values of family life
- Participate in training to provide RSE in line with the school curriculum policy
- Implement the agreed scheme of work
- Draw to the attention of the Headteacher any materials which they consider to be inappropriate
- Respond appropriately to those pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex education

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct Relationship and sex Education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, or indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse, this will be dealt with in line with our child protection and safeguarding policy.

Answering Difficult Questions

If a child asks an explicit or difficult question, the staff will use their professional judgement in deciding the best way to answer it. This may be through individual work or discussion with the child. If the staff member is concerned, they can refer to the Headteacher who can discuss the matter with the parent, or follow other appropriate procedures.

Relationship to other policies and documentation

This policy should be read in conjunction with Relationships Education and other safeguarding policies and documentation:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education – statutory guidance
- Child Protection Policy
- Safeguarding Policy