



# South Hetton Primary School

## Relationships and Sex Education Policy

April 2023



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## 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 primary academy school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

We do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science which would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).#

At South Hetton Primary School 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 working group of staff and Governors, including Parent Governors 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 – policy has been uploaded to our school website where parents are able to review the policy

4. Pupil consultation – will be reviewed in the summer term with the pupils through Pupil Voice

5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy will be shared with governors and ratified

## 4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, 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 in our PSHCE planning, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum using resources from Kapow which covers all statutory guidance and links the PHSE association program of study. 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 PSHCE curriculum on our school website.

## 6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health, citizenship and economic (PSHCE) education curriculum. This is delivered through specific PSHCE lessons, or through other areas of the curriculum e.g. History or Reading lessons. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in Religious Education (RE).

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
- Early sexual education

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see our PSHCE Curriculum document.

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 hold 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/non-science 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 non-science 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.
- Peter Ruddick is responsible for leading RSE in our school.

### 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, but school will automatically grant a request to withdraw a pupil from any sex education, other than as part of the science curriculum.:

- **Year 1:** Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.
- **Year 2:** Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- **Year 5:** Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals; describe the changes as humans develop to old age [They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty.]

There may be exceptional circumstances where school and parents of children with special educational needs or disabilities may need to be taken into account when making this decision.

Requests for withdrawal should be made to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. A record of these conversations will be made in school.

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 Peter Ruddick (RSE lead) and SLT through:

- The RSE lead will meet with staff prior to teaching to discuss teaching approaches and how PSHCE will be taught across the curriculum. Floor books will be monitored through termly curriculum reviews.
- Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.
- This policy will be reviewed by Peter Ruddick (RSE lead) annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Head teacher and shared with stakeholders.