

Gorringe Park Primary School



Believe, Achieve, Succeed

Our vision is

To inspire our children to achieve in a safe, fun environment so that they can take their next steps in life with confidence.

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Policy Review

Date Agreed: March 2024

Next Review Date: March 2025

Rationale and Ethos

This policy covers Gorringe Park's approach to Relationships and Sex Education [RSE] in line with the Department for Education's mandatory curriculum, effective September 2020. This policy was produced by the PSHCE coordinator, using the guidance of The PSHE Association, and through consultation with the school's pupils and governing body. We strongly believe that RSE is important for our pupils and our school because it allows pupils to gain knowledge in a safe space, where they have the opportunity to ask questions and develop their medically accurate understanding of their own changing bodies, both physically and emotionally, in ways that are appropriate for their age and maturity. Through this learning, our school's main aim is for pupils to be empowered with the knowledge and skills that encourage them to develop healthy relationships, a high sense of self-worth and to stay safe in an ever-changing and increasingly complex world.

Roles and Responsibilities

The teaching of RSE will be taught by the class teacher, who will be kept up-to-date with the latest changes in the curriculum through continual professional development. The programme of study has been designed following guidance from the PSHE association and through consultation with pupils and agreed by the school's governors and head teacher to be age-appropriate and in line with the school's ethos and values.

Legislation

We are required to teach RSE as part of the Department for Education's revised statutory guidance which states that all primary schools must deliver relationships education. There are a number of documents which inform this policy, and therefore the teaching of RSE, including:

- Education Act (1996)
- Learning and Skills Act (2000)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Supplementary Guidance SRE for the 21st century (2014)
- Keeping children safe in education – Statutory safeguarding guidance (2021)
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)

Curriculum Design

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHCE education provision. It will cover teaching about how to build and maintain positive relationships, our bodies as they change throughout life (including the scientific names of sexual organs and external genitalia) and human reproduction. In order to tackle sexism, misogyny, homophobia and gender stereotypes, our RSE programme is inclusive of pupils and families from a wide range of backgrounds, as per our legal obligation under the Equalities Act 2010. The design of content takes into consideration the issues which are prevalent within the borough of Merton, such as the rise in violent crime (including sexual violence) resulting in hospital admissions.

Where a class teacher feels that the teaching is not suitable for particular students, this will be discussed with the PSHCE coordinator and SENCo in order that adjustments are made. Should you wish to know more about the programme content of your child's year group specifically, please see the class teacher in the first instance.

Safe and Effective Practice

To ensure a safe learning environment, lessons are delivered by the class teacher; unless carefully selected external experts are invited to deliver workshops, in which instance the class teacher will be available throughout to answer children's questions if necessary. Teachers and children will work together to create and agree upon ground rules and these will be displayed throughout the lesson as a reminder. Distancing techniques, such as role plays and case studies are used in order to allow children to explore topics without feeling overtly personal to themselves.

Due to the ease of access to the internet, and misinformation, pupils questions will be answered by the class teacher. Where the class teacher feels it may not be appropriate they will consult with the parent in order to allow the conversation to be developed at home. In addition to verbally asking questions, all classrooms have a question box in which children can write their questions down, anonymously if this is the wish of the child. These questions can be addressed as part of a subsequent lesson or privately if more appropriate.

Safeguarding

Teachers are aware that effective RSE teaching, which brings an understanding of what is and is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. In this instance, the disclosure will be documented on a pink form and raised with a designated safeguarding officer.

All visitors and external agencies which help deliver RSE will be required to prove that they are DBS checked, or will be escorted around and accompanied at all times within school. All visitors will be informed of the school's safeguarding policy and how to report any disclosures.

Partnership with Parents

At Gorrington Park, we are committed to working closely with parents by ensuring that information regarding RSE is transparent and available. We will notify parents when RSE will be taught by sending a letter informing families of impending RSE lessons. Where parents have concerns, they should speak to the class teacher who will be able to answer most questions. Parents may also request to view teaching materials as appropriate.

Rights of Withdrawal

Parents should be aware that they have the legal right to withdraw their child from some elements of the RSE programme. Whilst children may be withdrawn from sex education aspects of the teaching, they **may not be withdrawn from relationships or health education**. Parents should also be aware that pupils learn about the reproductive life cycle of some non-human animals as part of the science curriculum, and that pupils may not be withdrawn from these lessons. As the aim of lessons is to empower pupils

with reliable information and facts, the school invites parents considering withdrawing their child to speak to the PSHCE coordinator.

All requests for withdrawal should be made in writing, to the head teacher, and must be sent each year that withdrawal is requested (meaning, requesting withdrawal in Year 5 will not automatically withdraw your child from lessons in Year 6). Whilst the Head teacher will automatically grant a request to withdraw a pupil from any sex education delivered (other than as part of the science curriculum) a meeting will be arranged with the parent, Head Teacher and PSHCE coordinator to discuss the request for withdrawal.

Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation.

As with any lesson, teachers will critically reflect on their work delivering RSE. Teaching will be discussed with, and observed by, the PSHCE coordinator. Pupils will have the opportunity to reflect on their learning during lessons and pupil, and parent, voice will be influential in adapting and amending planned learning activities.