

East Meon Church of England (Controlled) Primary School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy



Learning inspired by love, hope and courage.

Approved by Full Governors

Date: 26th June 2024

Reviewed by: Catherine Olver (Headteacher)

Next review due by: June 2025

Rationale, Definition and Ethos

The Department for Education (DfE) require that schools must teach the statutory relationships and health education content which is set out in 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education' (DfE, 2019). Some of the statutory content for science also makes links to aspects of relationships and sex education.

In addition to the statutory requirements, East Meon Church of England Primary School has chosen to also teach sex education.

We define 'Relationships Education' as learning and understanding the importance of safe, loving, caring and respectful relationships. This encompasses relationships with families, friends and partners and includes online relationships.

We define 'Sex Education' as learning about female and male body parts, puberty, heterosexual intercourse, pregnancy and the emotional and relationship contexts of these stages.

We believe that Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is important for our pupils and school because it is an important part of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. We want to ensure that children understand and are prepared for the changes their body will go through and have a basic concept of sex before starting secondary school.

We ensure that RSE is inclusive and meets the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by adapting lessons and resources where appropriate.

We ensure that RSE fosters equality by implementing our Equality Policy consistently across all aspects of the school curriculum.

This policy was produced by the headteacher through consultation with staff, governors and parents.

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body are responsible for ensuring there is an adequate RSE policy in place which is reviewed regularly. They are also responsible for monitoring that this policy is implemented consistently and effectively.

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring there is an adequate RSE curriculum in place which is delivered consistently and effectively. The headteacher is also responsible for managing any requests to withdraw pupils from the non-statutory components of RSE.

Teachers are responsible for the delivery of the RSE curriculum. They are provided with training around the RSE curriculum and effective delivery of this content and have regular opportunities to give feedback and offer suggestions for developments/improvements.

Curriculum Design

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education provision and covers:

- Relationships with families, friends and partners.
- What makes loving, caring, safe and respectful relationships.
- Online and offline relationships.
- How to stay safe.
- Female and male body parts.
- How the body changes, particularly during puberty.
- Heterosexual intercourse and pregnancy.

Our RSE curriculum has been developed collaboratively by the school teaching team. Class teachers plan their lessons from the curriculum overview, taking into consideration the needs of their pupils and adapting appropriately to ensure that everyone is able to participate. Lessons may involve watching videos, sharing books, class discussions, working through Powerpoint presentations and/or using activity sheets as considered appropriate.

Our RSE curriculum can be found on our website detailing what will be covered in each class.

RSE learning will link to and complement learning taking place in other curriculum areas including PHSE, RE and Science.

Safe and Effective Practice

We ensure a safe learning environment for the teaching and learning of RSE content by making sure all staff have read the RSE policy and have the subject knowledge needed to deliver, or in the case of teaching assistants, support the delivery of, each session. The normal class teacher delivers this curriculum content as they have positive relationships with the pupils. Teachers and pupils agree ground rules at the start of each new unit of work to establish how they will behave towards each other during discussions and activities. Pupils will be encouraged to ask questions if they are unsure and there will be boxes available for pupils to ask anonymous questions if they do not feel comfortable asking aloud. Staff will be aware of key resources they can use to signpost support where needed.

Engaging Parents and Other Stakeholders

In 2024, parents were sent a survey to find out their views regarding RSE at our school to inform the creation of this policy and the RSE curriculum. The responses received were all supportive of the teaching of Relationships Education at school and were positive about the areas covered. The majority of responses supported the teaching of Sex Education at school, with positive comments

about teaching the correct names for body parts and the body changes which take place, in particular around puberty. Some parents stated that they felt teaching about heterosexual intercourse in Upper Key Stage 2 would be positive as they are in a safe environment and this would prepare them for things they would be exposed to in secondary school. Some parents shared concerns around online safety and asked for this to be a focus during RSE sessions.

Teachers were also consulted in 2024 and collaboratively created a new RSE curriculum based on statutory requirements, feedback from parents and their own knowledge and understanding around teaching RSE in the classroom to their year groups.

The school is committed to working with parents and carers on this curriculum area. Parents and carers are informed about updates to the RSE policy and curriculum through the newsletter and can access both documents through the school website. Parents and carers are notified when key RSE topic areas are being taught such as when workshops around safety or lessons around heterosexual intercourse take place. They are given the opportunity to see the resources used to teach RSE in advance of sessions.

Governors are informed of the RSE policy and curriculum during the annual review cycle. They are given opportunities to share thoughts around policy and curriculum and must approve these annually.

Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from Sex Education but not from the statutory content of the Relationships Education, Health Education and Science curriculum.

If a parent or carer wants to withdraw their child from some or all of the Sex Education sessions, they can contact the headteacher who will discuss the situation with them and ensure the child is provided with some alternative learning whilst these sessions take place. The headteacher will work closely with the parent/carer to revisit the decision to withdraw termly/annually as appropriate.

Safeguarding

The RSE policy supports our school's approach to safeguarding and links to, and is informed by, other policies and statutory and non-statutory guidance for schools, including:

- The school's Safeguarding Policy
- The school's Child Protection Policy
- The school's Equality Policy
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (DfE, 2019)
- Church of England RSHE Principles and Charter (Church of England, 2019)
- Writing Your School's RSE Policy (PHSE Association, 2024)

- Equalities Act 2010

Teachers are aware that effective RSE can, at times, lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. Teachers and teaching assistants will follow the procedures set out in the school's Child Protection Policy if a disclosure takes place. The Designated Safeguarding Leads will be aware of when RSE sessions are taking place and will make sure someone is available during and following these sessions so that any concerns can quickly be dealt with.

Visitors/external agencies, such as the NSPCC, who support with the delivery of RSE will have key safeguarding information shared with them at the school office prior to working in the classroom. This will include the procedure to follow if there is a disclosure.

Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

The school's RSE provision is monitored and evaluated primarily by the headteacher, this includes monitoring and evaluating the contributions of visitors and external agencies. The headteacher will report back to the governing body regarding any findings.

Governors may also carry out monitoring visits linked to RSE to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RSE policy and curriculum.

Pupil voice is influential in adapting and amending planned learning activities.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher and governing body. This will ensure that the policy follows any updated guidance both statutory and non-statutory and remains relevant.