

Ramshaw Primary School



Relationships and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

December 2023

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What is RSE?

At Ramshaw Primary School Relationships Education (Rel Ed) is the building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, including on and off line. It gives children and young people the essential skills to build positive, enjoyable and non-exploitative relationships.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional 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.

Section 1 Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at Ramshaw primary 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 relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

Section 2 Statutory requirements

Primary Relationships, Sex Education & Health Education Policy Guidance

1. This policy was developed in response to:

- Children and Social Work Act (2017)
- Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance, (Department for Education June 2019)
- Equalities Act 2010
- Not Yet Good Enough: personal, social, health and economic education in schools, (Ofsted 2013)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0-25 years, 2017

- Life Lessons: PSHE and SRE in schools: Fifth Report, (House of Commons Education Committee 2015)
- Keeping Children safe in Education - Statutory Safe Guarding Guidance (2018)
- Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision Green Paper (July 2018)

This policy should be considered alongside the following:

- E-safety/Online Policy
- Anti-bullying/Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy (including child sexual exploitation)
- Equality and Inclusion Policy
- PSHE Policy

However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must regard the [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Ramshaw Primary School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

Section 3 Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with governors, staff, pupils, and parents.

The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps.

1. Review - members of the SLT pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance.
2. Governor consultation - members of the SLT presented relevant information and policy to governors.
3. Staff consultation - all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
4. Parents consultation - due to the current situation with COVID19 we could not hold a parental consultation in school therefore we have emailed all families a copy of the draft policy with some additional information about the curriculum content in this subject, inviting them to read and comment on by 10th July 2020.

5. Pupil consultation was carried out by focus groups, school council and PHSE lessons. ***Parents are signposted to our policy and curriculum on a regular basis.***
6. Ratification - once responses are collected, amendments will be made based on the feedback and then the policy will be shared again with governors, staff and parents and ratified.

4. Curriculum

Ramshaw Primary School specifically delivers Relationships Education and Relationship and Sex Education through its PSHE Programme, RE and Science lessons at foundation stage, KS1 and KS2.

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

Any RSE lesson may consider questions or issues that some pupils will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons a group/classroom agreement, formally known as ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson.

When pupils ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly at an age appropriate level and within the group/classroom agreement 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. Children's whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information.

More expert or specialist teachers and other professionals may support staff that are uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the RSE curriculum. Support and professional development will be provided for these staff, so that

they can develop their confidence in delivering the whole of the RSE programme.

Assessment is carried out where appropriate, for example, at the end of every module and involves teacher, pupil and peer assessment of knowledge and understanding, interpersonal skills, and attitudes.

At Ramshaw Primary School all staff will use scientifically correct vocabulary to avoid misunderstandings and ambiguity.

Section 5 Delivery of RSE

At Ramshaw Primary School RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum and other aspects in religious education (RE).

As part of the science and health education curriculum pupils in Year 5 and 6 receive puberty and sex education sessions which will be supported by the use of the school nursing team.

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

At Ramshaw Primary School, the above 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 2 parent families, 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).

Section 6 Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body will approve the RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

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.

Staff are responsible:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

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.

At Ramshaw Primary school all pupils are expected to fully engage in RSE and when discussing issues related to RSE treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Section 7: Pupils right to be excused from Sex and Relationship Education

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to excuse their children from all or part of the sex education elements delivered as part of the statutory Relationships 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. The head teacher/RSE lead will document the process and outcome. Parents/carers are welcome to review any RSE resources the school uses.

Section 8 Training

All staff have been provided with framework and guidance to support them with the delivery of the RSE curriculum.

If staff request additional training then this will be discussed with the individual member of staff and the head teacher to ensure that their individual training needs are met.

Section 19 Monitoring arrangements

At Ramshaw primary School the delivery of RSE is monitored by the SLT Team through:

Observations, planning and book scrutinies, learning walks and Performance Management.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessments systems.

This policy will be reviewed by Liz Sturrock (Headteacher) and Debra Colegrove (Deputy Headteacher/RSE Lead) every two years unless there is new guidance.

At every review the policy will be approved by the Governing Body.