

Revised

2016

Relationship & Sex Education Policy



Torriano Primary School

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to:

- Give information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and outside visitors about the content, organisation and approach to teaching RSE
- Enable parents and carers to support their children in learning about RSE
- Give a clear statement on what the school aims to achieve from RSE, the values underpinning it and why it is important for primary school pupils
- Set out how the school meets legal requirements in respect of RSE
 - (i) Duty to promote well-being (Children Act 2004)
 - (ii) Duty to prepare children for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life (Education Act 2006)
 - (iii) Ensure pupils learn about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and bringing up of children (Learning and Skills Act 2006)
 - (iv) Protect pupils from unsuitable teaching and materials (Learning and Skills Act 2006)
 - (v) Teach statutory RSE elements in the Science National Curriculum
 - (vi) Have an up to date policy developed in consultation with pupils and parents (Education Act 1996)
 - (vii) Meet the school's safeguarding obligations
 - (viii) Make the policy available to pupils and parents (Education Act 1996)
 - (ix) Right of parental withdrawal from all or part of RSE except those parts included in the national curriculum (Education Act 1996)
 - (x) Taken account of the DfE guidance on RSE (2000)
 - (xi) DfE expects that all state schools "should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHEE) and that "RSE is an important part of PSHEE" (DfE guidance on PSHEE 2013)
 - (xii) Prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups (Equality Act 2010)

Development of the Policy

This policy was developed by the school governors in consultation with pupils, staff, parents and carers and the wider community (school nurse and other health professionals/Camden LA, local religious/Diocesan Board and community leaders).

We organised a series of consultations

- School council gave their views on what to teach and the best ways to teach RSE
- Parents and carers were invited to a consultation meeting and gave their views on what they wanted their children to be taught
- Staff discussed the draft policy

We have also taken account of the

- RSE guidance (DfE 2000)
- Example RSE policy (Camden April 2014)
- Guidance on PSHEE (DfE 2013)
- Guidance produced by the PSHE Association "RSE for the 21st century" (February 2014)

Links to other policies

This policy links to the PSHE and citizenship policy, the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, anti-bullying/behaviour policy, Equality policy and e-safety policy.

Our provision of RSE is part of our approach to support the health and wellbeing of children and our commitment to being recognised as a healthy school, which was achieved in May 2013.

Definition of RSE

Knowledge and Understanding including;

emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, puberty, reproduction and pregnancy, similarities and differences between males and females, parts of the human body including the male and female reproductive parts, gender stereotyping and discrimination, different families, different types of relationships, healthy and unhealthy relationships and where to get help if needed

Personal and Social Skills including;

talking and listening to others, managing emotions, making friends and managing friendships, forming and maintaining loving, caring and respectful relationships, developing self-respect and empathy for others, respecting the differences between people, resilience to cope with change, making responsible and safe decisions, including on line

Why teach RSE at primary school?

Attitudes and Values including; feeling positive about growing up, the importance of respect, care and love, the value of family life, the importance of stable and loving relationships, including marriage (both heterosexual and gay) and civil partnerships, respect for rights and responsibilities in relationships, understanding that exploitation and violence in relationships is unacceptable, acceptance of difference and diversity, promoting gender equality.

- It prepares children for the physical and emotional changes that will take place at puberty
- It helps develop positive attitudes, values and self-esteem and challenges negative attitudes and prejudices.
- It helps make sense of misinformation in the media and from peers
- It provides an opportunity to talk about feelings and relationships
- It promotes the skills necessary for effective communication and loving, caring, respectful and happy relationships.
- It protects children from sexual exploitation and inappropriate on line content
- It is a statutory part of the science curriculum covering the biological aspects of RSE

Values promoted through RSE

Our RSE programme promotes the aims and values of our school which include

- Respect for self and others
- Commitment, trust and love within relationships
- Respect for rights and responsibilities in relationships
- Understanding diversity regarding religion, gender, culture and sexual orientation
- Working to reduce intolerance and discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion, and gender
- Acceptance of difference and diversity

- Promoting gender equality, challenge gender stereotypes and inequality and promotes equality in relationships
- Valuing family life and stable, loving and committed relationships, including marriage (both heterosexual and gay) and civil partnerships, for bringing up children

RSE will support the importance of strong and stable relationships, including marriage for heterosexual and gay couples and civil partnerships for family life and bringing up children. Care is taken to ensure there is no stigmatisation of children based on their different home circumstances.

Aims for RSE

To enable children to:

- Develop the confidence to talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships
- Make and maintain friendships
- Understand the importance of respect, responsibility, love and care in relationships
- Understand and respect different types of families, including families with same sex parents
- Develop positive attitudes about growing up
- Explore their own and other people's attitudes and values
- Challenge and prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender
- Prevent sexist, sexual, homophobic and transphobic language and bullying
- Challenge gender stereotypes and inequality and promote equality and respect in relationships
- Know the correct biological names for the parts of the body, including the male and female reproductive parts
- Know and understand about emotional, social and physical changes at puberty
- Know and understand about reproduction
- Know about human sexuality
- Discuss their concerns and correct misunderstanding they may have gained from the media and peers
- Keep safe online and offline
- Recognise when something is risky or unsafe
- Know where and how to seek information and advice when they need help

Content and Organisation of the Programme

Where is RSE taught?

RSE will be taught through a planned programme in PSHE and Citizenship as well as in science. This will ensure that it covers the statutory biological aspects, but also the social and emotional aspects. It is taught throughout the years, either as discrete topics/units or integrated into other topics such as Ourselves, Growing and Living Things, at a level appropriate to the needs and maturity of the pupils. There is also time for discrete teaching topics across the years. We ensure that the same messages about being safe on line are taught through RSE as in IT/computing.

What is taught in each year group?

We have a statutory duty to teach the RSE elements of the science national curriculum, See Appendix 1 for the RSE aspects of statutory science

- The content is based on the RSE aspects in PSHE and Citizenship and the statutory elements of the science national curriculum

- The content for each year group covers knowledge, skills and attitudes and is appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils and progresses from one year to another, building on what has been learnt in previous years.
- Teachers plan lessons, taking account of the Camden RSE learning objectives and suggested scheme of work. See Appendix 2 for the RSE aspects in the national non-statutory guidance on PSHE and Citizenship

Who teaches RSE?

RSE will be taught by the class teacher but sometimes health professionals or other visitors will help deliver RSE, such as the school nurse or a visit from a pregnant mum or a mum with their baby. If visitors are involved in RSE we will

- plan and evaluate their contribution as part of the school's RSE teaching programme.
- provide the visitor with an up-to-date copy of the school's RSE Policy and ensure they adhere to it
- ensure that the class teacher is present throughout the lesson, taking responsibility for class management
- follow up in later lessons
- The school nurse sometimes provides drop in sessions to support pupils on a range of health issues, including puberty.

How is RSE taught?

- On the whole pupils are taught in mixed groups to ensure that boys and girls learn the same information. However, sometimes it is useful in Years 5 and 6 to include time when single sex groups can discuss issues with a teacher of the same gender.
- Teachers set a group agreement or ground rules with pupils to ensure that an atmosphere is created where pupils feel able to ask questions, discuss concerns, talk about feelings and relationships, but do not discuss or ask private information of each other or the teacher.
- We answer questions honestly and sensitively, appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils. Some questions may not be answered immediately if the teacher feels they need to consult with the Headteacher and some questions may be more appropriately answered on a one-to-one basis, rather than with the whole class. In Key Stage 2 classes we provide a question box so that pupils can anonymously ask questions and these are then answered by the class teacher.
- Resources, such as DVDs and leaflets are chosen to ensure that they are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils. They take into account equality of opportunity through their use of language, cultural attitudes, family make-up and images, including body image, avoiding stereotyping, racism and sexism.
- A variety of teaching methods are used that enable pupils to participate and reflect on their learning, role play, quizzes, pair and small group work, mixing groups so that pupils work with a range of peers. We also use case studies, stories, and role plays to help de-personalise discussions and help pupils gain confidence to talk and listen to each other.
- The RSE policy reflects and is in line with our equal opportunities policy and the school ensures that the RSE teaching programme is an inclusive one and is appropriate and relevant to all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities. Teachers ensure that the content, approach and use of inclusive language reflect the diversity of the school community, and help all pupils feel valued and included, regardless of their gender, ability, disability, experiences and family background.
- Where needed, RSE is differentiated to meet the needs of pupils and specialist resources may be used to respond to their individual needs. In some cases pupils have individual support or work in small groups with a TA or learning mentor
- Teachers do not discuss details of their personal relationships with pupils.
- Teachers are sensitive to the issues of different types of relationships. Promoting inclusion and reducing discrimination are part of RSE throughout the school and reflect our equality policy. When teaching about relationships and families we also include same sex relationships. The teaching programme in Year 5 and 6 will include specific understanding of different types of relationships, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans relationships.

- Homophobic and transphobic references and homophobic and transphobic actions and bullying are not tolerated in school and are challenged and dealt with as part of our commitment to promoting inclusion, gender equality and preventing bullying.
- Teaching about different families is part of RSE and we aim to reflect the broad range of experiences amongst pupils and ensure all pupils feel their family is valued, such as: single parent families; recently divorced parents; parents who are married, parents who are not married, parents who have non-monogamous relationships; lesbian, gay or bisexual parents; children living between two homes; in foster homes; in residential homes and living with relations other than biological parents. We will emphasise the importance of strong and supportive relationships, including marriage (both heterosexual and gay) and civil partnerships, for family life and bringing up children.

Involving pupils

To ensure the RSE programme meets the needs of pupils, the PSHE Coordinator involves the children in reviewing and evaluating the programme each year.

Confidentiality, safeguarding and child protection

Although RSE is not about personal disclosures and personal issues, it is possible that a pupil may disclose personal information. Staff understand that they cannot promise pupils absolute confidentiality, and pupils know this too.

If teachers are concerned in any way that a pupil is at risk of sexual or any other kind of abuse, they will talk to the Designated Safeguarding lead and follow the school's Child Protection Procedures. If a pupil discloses to a teacher that they are sexually active, or are considering sexual activity, then this would be viewed as a child protection issue.

Assessing RSE

Pupil's progress in learning in RSE is assessed as part of the assessment of science and PSHE and citizenship.

Monitoring and evaluating RSE

The PSHE Coordinator monitors teachers' planning to ensure RSE is being taught. Pupils and staff are involved in evaluating the RSE teaching programme as part of the annual review of PSHE and Citizenship which also involves the school council.

Training staff to deliver RSE

It is important that RSE is taught by teachers that are knowledgeable, skilled and confident. We ensure that teachers are trained to teach RSE and provide a range of training opportunities including school based INSET, team teaching, classroom observations and external training courses provided by Camden LA and other organisations.

Training could include:

- What to teach and when
- Leading discussions about attitudes and values
- Information updates
- Practising a variety of teaching methods
- Facilitating group discussions
- Answering questions
- Managing sensitive and controversial issues

Working with Parents/Carers and Child Withdrawal Procedures

We place the utmost importance on sharing responsibility with parents and carers for their children's education. We do our best to find out about any religious or cultural views which may affect the RSE curriculum and will try to balance parental views with our commitment to comprehensive RSE and equality

We will take every opportunity to inform and involve parents and carers by

- Making the policy available on the school's website
- Including a summary of the content and organisation of RSE in the school brochure
- Giving parents the content of the RSE teaching programme as part of the termly information on the curriculum
- Inviting parents and carers to a class meeting to discuss the RSE programme
- Providing materials for parents to use when talking about RSE with their children
- Providing information on RSE for the Parent's Notice board, and making available a paper copy of the policy for any parent and carer that would like a copy
- Consulting parents on the RSE policy when it is reviewed
- Discussing individual concerns and helping parents and carers support the needs of their children

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from RSE, apart from the statutory national curriculum. This means that parents and carers cannot withdraw their children from RSE aspects of the science national curriculum.

If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from the RSE curriculum they must arrange a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will talk through their concerns and discuss the benefits of school RSE. If they decide to withdraw their child, work will be provided to do in another class. We will offer packs of the teaching materials if parents wish to use this with their children at home. Parents can talk to the PSHE Coordinator about the resources to support this.

Even when a child has been withdrawn from RSE lessons, if the child should ask questions at other times, these questions would be answered honestly by staff.

Disseminating the policy

A copy of this policy is on the school website. It is included in the

- Staff Handbook
- Governor Handbook

A summary is included in the school prospectus and on the Parent's notice board. Copies are supplied to visitors who are involved in providing RSE in school.

When the policy is being reviewed, parents are informed through the newsletter and school's website.

Review Date: January 2018

Key contacts

PSHE and Citizenship Co-ordinator: Rosemary O'Brien

Governor with a lead on RSE:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Helen Bruckdorfer

Appendices

Appendix 1 RSE and science in the National Curriculum

Key Stage 1

No content linked to RSE

Key Stage 2

Year 3 - No content linked to RSE

Year 4 - No content linked to RSE

Year 5

Living things and their habitats

Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

Pupils should find out about different types of reproduction, including sexual reproduction in animals.

They might observe changes in an animal over a period of time (for example, by hatching and rearing chicks), comparing how different animals reproduce and grow.

Animals, including humans

Describe the changes as humans develop to old age.

Pupils should draw a timeline to indicate stages in the growth and development of humans. They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty.

Pupils could work scientifically by researching the gestation periods of other animals and comparing them with humans; by finding out and recording the length and mass of a baby as it grows.

Year 6

No content linked to RSE

Appendix 2 RSE and the non-statutory guidance on PSHE and Citizenship

Key Stage 2

Developing confidence and responsibility and making the most of their abilities

1a to talk and write about their opinions, and explain their views on issues that affect themselves and society

1c to face new challenges positively, by collecting information, looking for help, making responsible choices and taking action

1d to recognise, as they approach puberty, how people's emotions change at that time and how to deal with their feelings towards themselves, their family and others in a positive way

Preparing to play an active role as citizens

2a to research, discuss and debate topical issues, problems and events

2f to resolve differences by looking at alternatives, making decisions and explaining choices

Developing a healthy, safer lifestyle

3b that bacteria and viruses can affect health and that following simple safe routines can reduce their spread

3c about how the body changes as they approach puberty

Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people

4a that their actions affect themselves and others, to care about other people's feelings and try to see things from their points of view

4c to be aware of different types of relationships, including marriage, and those between friends and families, and to develop the skills to be effective in relationships

4e to recognise and challenge stereotypes

4f that differences and similarities between people arise from number of factors including cultural, ethnic, racial, religious diversity, gender and disability

4g where individuals, families and groups can get help and support

End of Key Stage Statements for PSHE and Citizenship

Children can demonstrate that they recognise their own worth and that of others

They can express their views confidently and listen to and show respect for the views of others

They can identify positive ways to face new challenges

They can discuss some of the bodily and emotional changes at puberty

They can identify some factors that affect emotional health and well-being

They can identify different types of relationship, and can show ways to maintain good relationships).

They can respond to, or challenge, negative behaviours such as stereotyping and aggression.

They can describe some of the different beliefs and values in society, and can demonstrate respect and tolerance towards people different from themselves.

They can debate, explain their views and listen to others and consider different alternatives