



Riverbank  
School

# RELATIONSHIP & SEX EDUCATION POLICY

## Relationship & Sex Education Policy

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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 an independent primary 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 Riverbank 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:

- Review - a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance.
- Staff consultation - all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.
- Parent/stakeholder consultation - parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy.
- Pupil consultation -we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE.
- Ratification - once amendments were made, the policy was shared with the proprietor and ratified.

### 4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social, and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, 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.



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## 5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils, and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. 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 curriculum map in Appendix 1.

## 6. Delivery of RSE

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 are included in religious education (RE).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

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

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

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

### The Proprietor

The Proprietor will approve the RSE policy and hold the Director of Education to account for its implementation.

### The Director of Education

The Director of Education is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 8).

### 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 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 head of education.

The member of staff responsible for the delivery of the RSE curriculum at Riverbank Primary School is Ava Dyson (Lead Teacher).



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## **Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

## **8. Parent's Right to Withdraw**

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Lead Teacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

## **9. Training**

Staff are trained in the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Director of Education 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 Tayyaba Ahmed and Ava Dyson through: Lesson observations, Learning walks, work-book scrutiny staff supervision.

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

<b>Approved by:</b>	Tayyaba Ahmed - Director of Education	<b>Date</b>	08/01/2024
<b>Last Reviewed on:</b>	08/01/2024		
<b>Next Review due by:</b>	07/01/2025		