



Alver Valley Federation of Schools

# Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

*Encompassed in our Personal Development Curriculum*

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## 1. Aims

The aims of relationships, health and sex education (RSE) at our school are:

- To provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place;
- To prepare pupils for puberty and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene;
- To help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy;
- To create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships;
- To teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

## 2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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 have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Alver Valley Schools 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:

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

## 4. Definition

*RSE is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching. (DfEE Guidance 0116/2000)*

RSE in primary schools focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships with particular reference to friendships, family relationships and relationships with other peers and adults.

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.

## **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 pupils and staff where the age, needs and feelings of pupils have been taken into account. 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.

Although sex education in primary schools is not compulsory, the DfE continues to recommend that primary schools have a sex education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the pupils.

At Alver Valley Schools we believe that children should learn about relationships as well as the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, human sexuality and sexual health in an age-appropriate way. This goes beyond learning about relationships, to include puberty, how a baby is conceived and born, body ownership, and safeguarding.

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 our Personal Development 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.

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

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).

The school recognises that RSE must be taught at both Key Stages. Whenever RSE appears in the school's Personal Development programme in a discrete fashion the class teacher will inform parents about the issues to be covered and seek their support in exploring these issues in the home context.

All teachers are responsible for teaching about and modelling good relationships within school. Much of the general work in school is based on good relationships and in this regard RSE is supported by the school's behaviour management policy.

In the delivery of RSE, teachers will use a variety of teaching methods and resources. The following are recognised methods for the effective delivery of RSE:

- Discussion
- Drama and role play
- Research and presentation.

Teachers will also use other teaching methods to enable pupils to learn about RSE which are age appropriate, taking into account the developmental needs of individual pupils. Parents are welcome to discuss with teachers their approach to RSE and the methods of teaching and learning to be used.

The school uses a wide variety of resources including DVDs and books. Parents are welcome to view these materials. Resources used by the school are produced for schools by educational publishers and are intended for pupils in the light of best current research into RSE.

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

### **Dealing with sensitive issues**

Teachers need to be sure that they are aware of issues that may arise out of teaching and learning about RSE. The following are protocols for discussion based lessons with pupils:

- no one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question;
- no one will be forced to take part in a discussion;
- only the correct names for body parts will be used;
- meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way;
- teachers may use their discretion in responding to questions and may say that the appropriate person to answer that question is the parent.

Where a member of staff is concerned that a child protection issue is arising it is his/her responsibility to follow the school's policy in this matter.

## **7. Roles and responsibilities**

### **7.1 The governing board**

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the executive headteacher to account for its implementation.

### **7.2 The executive headteacher**

The executive headteacher 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).

### **7.3 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 executive headteacher.

### **7.4 Pupils**

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

## **8. Parents' 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 of sex education within RSE (RSE that falls outside the National Curriculum Science Order).

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

When the executive headteacher receives such a request she will invite the parents to a meeting, at which the executive head teacher will explain clearly what the school's policy is and seek to accommodate the wishes and/or concerns of the parents. If that is not possible the pupil will be withdrawn from RSE and placed in another class where alternative work and supervision will be provided.

The right to withdrawal will be made clear to parents/carers. A copy of this policy will be made available to all parents/carers who request it or it is available on the website.

## **9. Training**

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

The headteacher 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 Lisa Willis and Sarah Kitcher through:

- a) Ensuring that RSE occurs in the school's curriculum according to the schemes of work for Science and PSHE.
- b) Monitoring the use of teaching and learning styles;
- c) Monitoring the use of teaching materials;
- d) Evaluating the effectiveness of the schools programme.

The co-ordinator will be given time to monitor and evaluate the schools RSE programme as it occurs in the school's schemes of work for each Key Stage.

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

This policy will be reviewed by Lisa Willis, Sarah Kitcher and the school's governing body annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governors and the executive headteacher.

In reviewing the policy it will consult the following groups:

- parents;
- staff;
- pupils;

The school will do this by forming focus groups that will look at the policy and its effectiveness.

## Appendix 1: Personal Development Curriculum Map

Term	Autumn			Spring			Summer		
Core themes	Relationships Nov: Anti-bullying week:			Living in the wider world			Health and wellbeing		
Topics	Families and friendships	Safe relationships	Respecting ourselves and others	Belonging to a community	Media, literacy and digital resilience	Money and work	Physical health and mental wellbeing	Growing and changing	Keeping safe
Early years	Early Years Foundation Stage is essential to provide a solid foundation for future Personal, Social and Emotional Development. Through Objective Led Planning, all areas of learning will be interwoven through the Early Years curriculum.								
Year 1	Roles of different people; families; feeling cared for	Recognising privacy; staying safe; seeking permission	How behaviour affects others; being polite and respectful	What rules are; caring for others' needs; looking after the environment	Using the internet and digital devices; communicating online	Strengths and interests; jobs in the community	Keeping healthy; food and exercise, hygiene routines; sun safety	Recognising what makes them unique and special; feelings; managing when things go wrong	How rules and age restrictions help us; keeping safe online
Year 2	Making friends; feeling lonely and getting help	Managing secrets; resisting pressure and getting help; recognising hurtful behaviour	Recognising things in common and differences; playing and working cooperatively; sharing opinions	Belonging to a group; roles and responsibilities; being the same and different in the community	The internet in everyday life; online content and information	What money is; needs and wants; looking after money	Why sleep is important; medicines and keeping healthy; keeping teeth healthy; managing feelings and asking for help	Growing older; naming body parts; moving class or year	Safety in different environments; risk and safety at home; emergencies
Year 3	What makes a family; features of family life	Personal boundaries; safely responding to others; the impact of hurtful behaviour	Recognising respectful behaviour; the importance of self-respect; courtesy and being polite	The value of rules and laws; rights, freedoms and responsibilities	How the internet is used; assessing information online	Different jobs and skills; job stereotypes; setting personal goals	Health choices and habits; what affects feelings; expressing feelings	Personal strengths and achievements; managing and reframing setbacks	Risks and hazards; safety in the local environment and unfamiliar places

Year 4	Positive friendships, including online	Responding to hurtful behaviour; managing confidentiality; recognising risks online	Respecting differences and similarities; discussing difference sensitively	What makes a community; shared responsibilities	How data is shared and used	Making decisions about money; using and keeping money safe	Maintaining a balanced lifestyle; oral hygiene and dental care	Physical and emotional changes in puberty; external genitalia; personal hygiene routines; support with puberty	Medicines and household products; drugs common to everyday life
Year 5	Managing friendships and peer influence	Physical contact and feeling safe	Responding respectfully to a wide range of people; recognising prejudice and discrimination	Protecting the environment; compassion towards others	How information online is targeted; different media types, their role and impact	Identifying job interests and aspirations; what influences career choices; workplace stereotypes	Healthy sleep habits; sun safety; medicines, vaccinations and allergies	Personal identity; recognising individuality and different qualities; mental wellbeing	Keeping safe in different situations, including responding in emergencies, first aid and FGM
Year 6	Attraction to others; romantic relationships; civil partnership and marriage	Recognising and managing pressure; consent in different situations	Expressing opinions and respecting other points of view, including discussing topical issues	Valuing diversity; challenging discrimination and stereotypes	Evaluating media sources; sharing things online	Influences and attitudes to money; money and financial risks	What affects mental health and ways to take care of it; managing change, loss and bereavement; managing time online	Human reproduction and birth; increasing independence; managing transition	Keeping personal information safe; regulations and choices; drug use and the law; drug use and the media



## Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability</li> <li>• The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives</li> <li>• That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care</li> <li>• That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up</li> <li>• That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</li> <li>• How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed</li> </ul>
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</li> <li>• The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</li> <li>• That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</li> <li>• That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right</li> <li>• How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed</li> </ul>
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs</li> <li>• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• The conventions of courtesy and manners</li> <li>• The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</li> <li>• That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority</li> <li>• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help</li> <li>• What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</li> <li>• The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</li> </ul>



TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not</li> <li>• That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous</li> <li>• The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them</li> <li>• How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met</li> <li>• How information and data is shared and used online</li> </ul>
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</li> <li>• About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe</li> <li>• That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact</li> <li>• How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know</li> <li>• How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult</li> <li>• How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard</li> <li>• How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so</li> <li>• Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources</li> </ul>

Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	To include notes from discussions with parents and agreed actions taken.