

# Friar's Grove Primary School



## **Relationships and Sex Education Policy (RSE)**

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## Introduction

Friar's Grove Primary School considers that Relationships Education (RSE) is an integral part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship curriculum and is also closely linked to the Science curriculum.

We define 'Relationships and Sex Education' as a way to help children develop the skills to recognise and manage healthy relationships both online and in the real world.

We believe that Relationships and Sex education is designed to build self-esteem and to explore personal identity.

We believe Relationships and Sex Education is important for our pupils and our school because it will help children understand and make sense of the world they are growing up in; to recognise the differences and similarities between their peers and their families; to understand the fact every human being is unique and has the right to be respected. There are many different family structures and all children have the right to feel safe.

We aim to offer pupils a carefully planned programme, following the PSHE Association programme of study, on human development, relationships, sexuality and family life within a safe, comfortable atmosphere and in a relaxed relationship between teacher and pupil.

The programme is matched to the pupils' level of maturity and is in line with the vision of our school:

### Our School Vision

#### Growing Minds and Hearts for a Whole World of Opportunities



An engaging curriculum and effective learning will establish strong roots of knowledge, skills and understanding.



A welcoming and inclusive ethos will nurture and grow excellent personal and social skills.



An appreciation of our world and its diversity will enable our children to branch out into the global community.

This policy reflects the requirements of the DfE Relationships Education guidance.

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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
- Draw upon, and promote, the school’s values: ‘Ambition, Integrity, Respect’.

### 2. Statutory requirements

The Relationships Education, Relationship & Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made Relationship Education compulsory in all primary schools, from September 2020.

As a maintained primary school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

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](#).

We must also have regard to our legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

At Friar's Grove we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

### 3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents/carers. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group 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/carers and any interested parties were 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

The Department for Education defines relationships education as, *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 RSE 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/carers, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

We will share all curriculum materials with parents and carers upon request.

At Friar's Grove, PSHE and RSE plays a vital role in the holistic development of students. In Key Stage 1, children are introduced to fundamental concepts such as friendship and respect, while also starting to learn the names of body parts, fostering a sense of body awareness and self-identity. As they transition into Key Stage 2, the curriculum becomes more comprehensive, guiding students through the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty and emphasizing the importance of consent. This progression leads to Year 6 children learning:

- About reproduction in the context of the human life cycle.
- How a baby is conceived, grows and is born.
- The roles and responsibilities of parents and carers.
- That pregnancy can be prevented.

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).

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and friendships
- Safe relationships
- Respecting ourselves and others
- Online relationships
- Physical health and mental wellbeing
- Growing and changing
- Keeping safe

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

### **Language**

Children should be introduced, at appropriate stages, to the correct terminology in their programme of sex education. It is important that acceptable and unacceptable terminology is clarified. After initial discussion, correct biological terms will be used at all times for teaching.

### **Pupils' Questions**

Teachers will reply to, and answer, children's questions sensitively and openly. They will ensure that balanced information is provided which will take into account the different faiths' views and avoid any negative impressions.

Teachers will need to answer questions that may arise through the direct teaching of the statutory aspects of sex education within the Science Curriculum, as well as those that may be asked at other times. All questions will be handled sensitively and set within a general context.

Questions which teachers feel uncertain about answering should be discussed with a senior member of staff and answered at a later date. Consideration should be given to religious or cultural factors, and to parents' wishes before questions are answered.

If the teacher decides to discuss the matter on an individual basis, a record must be kept of that discussion.

### **Equal Opportunities**

We will ensure quality of access for all pupils, regardless of gender, race or disability, so giving equal opportunities and avoiding discrimination.

Pupils with special educational needs will be given the opportunity to fully participate in RSE lessons, and an adapted programme will be provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to make sure 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 and 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).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

### **Links to the Science Curriculum**

**Early Years Foundation Stage** children learn about life cycles. Through on-going personal, social and emotional development they develop the skills to form relationships and think about relationships with others.

In **Key Stage 1 (Animals, including humans)** pupils should be taught to:

- identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.
- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.
- observe, through video or first-hand observation and measurement, how different animals, including humans, grow.
- find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)
- describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

In **Key Stage 2** children learn to:

**(Animals including humans)**

- describe the changes as humans develop to old age.
- identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood
- recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function

**(Living things and their habitats)**

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

From Year 4 onwards, we place a particular emphasis on RSE, as many children experience puberty at this age. We teach the children about the parts of the body and how they work. We also explain what will happen to their bodies during puberty. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it and there are opportunities for single sex question sessions. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach these with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

## 6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- During lessons, makes pupils feel:
  - Safe and supported
  - Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
  - A whole-class setting
  - Small groups or targeted sessions
  - 1-to-1 discussions
  - Digital formats
- Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

## 6.2 Use of resources

We **will** consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

## 7. Use of external organisations and materials

Our PSHE and RSE curriculum is designed around the PSHE Association's Thematic Model, ensuring a comprehensive and structured approach to our learning.

We will make sure that an agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

The school remains responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used don't undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We **will**:

- Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
  - Are age-appropriate
  - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
  - Comply with:

- This policy
  - The [Teachers' Standards](#)
  - The [Equality Act 2010](#)
  - The [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
  - The [Education Act 1996](#)
- Only work with external agencies where we have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses
  - Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
  - Review any case study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
  - Be clear on:
    - What they're going to say
    - Their position on the issues to be discussed
  - Ask to see in advance any materials that the agency may use
  - Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow our usual safeguarding procedures for these people
  - Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to us, or to parents and carers
  - Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
  - Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
  - Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers
  - Share all external materials with parents and carers

We **won't**, under any circumstances:

- Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
- Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme

## 8. Roles and responsibilities

### 8.1 The governing board

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

### 8.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, for sharing resources and materials with parents and carers, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of RSE (see section 9).

### **8.3 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/carers wish them to be withdrawn from the 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 headteacher. All class teachers are responsible for the delivery of the RSE programme. At times, HLTAs may also be required to deliver the content but this should be following discussion with the class teacher.

### **8.4 Pupils**

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

### **8.5 Parents**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's RSE lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents about the school's RSE policy and practice (via a parent questionnaire and parent forums as necessary).
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the RSE of their child.
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE in the school.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of Sex and Relationship education, not included in the Science Curriculum. However this rarely happens, by working in partnership with parents they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education

## **9. Parents' right to withdraw**

Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from relationships education.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory components of 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 headteacher.

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

## **10. 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.

## **11. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHE lead, along with the member of the SLT who is in charge of Teaching and Learning, through:

Pupil interviews, book looks, learning walks and learning conversations with teachers.

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

## Appendix 1: Curriculum map

### PRIMARY PSHE EDUCATION: LONG-TERM OVERVIEW – THEMATIC MODEL

	Autumn: Relationships			Spring: Living in the wider world			Summer: Health and Wellbeing		
	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
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 restrictions help keeping safe
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; 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 in 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, immunisations and allergies	Personal identity; recognising individuality and different qualities; mental wellbeing	Keeping safe in different situations including responding in emergencies; 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

## Relationships and sex education curriculum map

### 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, protecting 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, 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, a security as they grow up</li> <li>That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other with</li> <li>How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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</li> <li>• The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, 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</li> <li>• That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is 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 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, physical appearance, 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 respect others, including those in positions of authority</li> <li>• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders 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>
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 honesty 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 respond</li> <li>• How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks of 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 important to know what they relate to being safe</li> <li>• That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate contact</li> <li>• How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online)</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/carer form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent/carer		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/carers	