

# SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY



## Stockham Primary School Sex and Relationships Education Policy. 2021

Issue Date:	
Reviewed by:	Governing Body
Date of the last Review:	May 2021
Next Review Date:	May 2024

# SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

## Introduction

Schools are required to provide a curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils ...and prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life'. (The Education Reform Act (Section 1). Sex and Relationships Education 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. (Sex and Education Guidance DfE July 2000). Sex and Relationships Education is the entitlement of each child and is delivered within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education and is taught as an integral part of the Personal, Social and Health Education and Science Curriculum throughout the school. It encompasses the teaching and learning necessary if pupils are to understand their own and others' sexuality. It enables them to develop their ideas, knowledge and skills gradually and appropriately and acquire skills for developing relationships and for making informed decisions.

See also Child Protection and Safeguarding Pupils Policy.

## Relationship and Sex Education

Relationships Education in primary school is teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults. This starts with pupils being taught about what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them. Relationship and Sex Education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health.

Whilst Relationships Education and Health Education is compulsory in all primary schools, Sex Education is not mandatory in primary schools. The DfE states that it is for primary schools to determine whether they need to cover any additional content on Sex Education beyond the mandatory Science Curriculum to meet the needs of their pupils. At Stockham School, puberty is taught as a statutory requirement of Health Education and covered by our Jigsaw PSHE Programme in the 'Changing Me' Puzzle (unit). We conclude that sex education refers to Human Reproduction, and therefore inform parents of their right to request their child be withdrawn from the PSHE lessons that explicitly teach this. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

# SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

## The teaching of RSE

At Stockham Primary School, we have a PSHE curriculum which covers relationships, staying safe, keeping healthy and feelings/emotions (Jigsaw Curriculum). This is a progressive scheme and builds on pupils learning year on year, ensuring that every aspect covered is age appropriate. In addition to this, aspects of RSE are included in work for other subjects such as Science, Religious Education and Guided Reading. In each year group, PSHE Education is delivered by a teacher, HLTA or external specialist.

Monitoring is undertaken by the PSHE Subject Leader and SLT.

RSE has three main elements:

### **Attitudes and values:**

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- learning the value of family life and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

### **Personal and social skills:**

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

### **Knowledge and understanding:**

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, emotions and relationships;

## Confidentiality

The school's work in RSE will result in sensitive issues being discussed, either with groups of pupils or with individuals. We will:

- reassure pupils that their best interests will be maintained;

# SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

- encourage pupils to talk to their parents/carers and provide support in this if necessary;
- ensure that pupils are aware that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality;
- inform pupils that if an external agency needs to be informed, they will be told first and supported appropriately;
- uphold Child Protection guidelines and procedures if there is any possibility of abuse;
- ensure that pupils are informed of sources of confidential help.

## **The use of outside visiting speakers and health professionals**

Visitors are made fully aware of the school's RSE Policy. All visitors are subject to the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## **The right of parents/carers to withdraw their child from RSE**

We will ensure, should they wish, that parents/carers have the opportunity to watch films/images shown to the children that they may be concerned about.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from Sex Education except from those elements that are in the National Curriculum for Science. Requests should be made, in writing, to the Head teacher.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

Your child's class teacher will inform you of the content of what will be taught prior to the lessons beginning. They will be happy to answer any questions.

If any over sexualised or inappropriate sexual content is made by the child, parents and carers will be informed by the class teacher.

## **Equality**

This policy will inform the school's Equalities Plan.

At Stockham School we promote respect for all and value every individual child. We also respect the right of our children, their families and our staff, to hold beliefs, religious or otherwise, and understand that sometimes these may be in tension with our approach to some aspects of Relationships, Health and Sex Education.

## **Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation**

Stockham Primary School believes that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality (LGBT) and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support.

# SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue, to reassure them of the content and context.

## Monitoring & Evaluation

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the PHSE Education coordinator and Senior Leadership Team. This policy will be updated in line with new initiatives together with any school processes. This policy will be reviewed in three years.

**Designated Teacher:** Claire Lovegrove

**Date:** May 2021

**Date agreed by staff:  
Body:**

**Date agreed with Governing**

**Signed on behalf of the Governing Body:**

**Date of Review: May 2024**

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## Version History

Version	Date	Description of Changes
1.0	May 2021	Issuance of the policy

# SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY